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## Margaret Cano is NY baby

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

**C**ouple Dave and Joanna Cano rang in the new decade with a new bundle of joy, Margaret Cano, who is the Commonwealth's first baby of the year.

Margaret Cano, the fourth child of Dave and Joanna, was born at exactly 12:37pm on Jan. 1 and weighed in at 4 lbs and 14 ounces. She was one of two babies born on New Year's Day.

Dave said he was amazed to learn that the New Year's baby is significant in the CNMI and was proud to learn that their new addition to the family is the 2020 New Year's baby.

"We're amazed and we're proud. All that matters is that our baby girl is healthy and normal and my wife is okay," he said.

Although it was a joyous moment for the Cano family to welcome a new life into the world, the labor was nearly unbearable, with Joanna having to go into labor two weeks earlier than expected, lasting about 14 hours.

See MARGARET on Page 4



MarPac surprises parents Dave Cano, far right, and Joanna Cano, third from the right, yesterday with a one-month supply of diapers, infant formula, and more in honor of the birth of the first baby of the decade, Margaret Cano.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

### FROM ZERO BANKRUPTCY CASES IN 2018

## 4 file for bankruptcy in '19

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Four filed bankruptcy petitions in 2019 before the U.S. District Court for the NMI's Bankruptcy Division. Court records showed that three

individuals filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition, while one individual filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy case.

The last to file was a Chapter 7 case on May 14. The filing of a

See 4 FILE on Page 4

## Over 700 ancestral remains not buried

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
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REPORTER

There are at least over 700 ancestral remains that have been extracted from different locations in the CNMI that have yet to be reburied, according to Indigenous Affairs Office resident director Roman Tudela.

According to Tudela in a recent interview, there is a procedure that the

Historic Preservation Office would have to follow as they go about the burial of the remains. HPO would initially have to have an archeologist look at the remains and, from there, get the go-signal if the remains are ready to be re-buried. Until then, the remains would have to be kept in a secure and well-maintained area until HPO receives funding.

"We want to make sure that this

won't be thrown aside and forgotten about," said Tudela.

Tudela also stated that the HPO makes the final decision on how the remains will be re-buried. They are still deciding whether they will be "cultural" and have the remains wrapped in a garment or coconut leaves.

The decision is up in the air since there are a lot of things to consider.

### INSIDE



### BUSINESS

A high-end cosmetics brand in China recently visits Saipan for a team-building activity.

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### ASIA

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned of unspecified "shocking" action.

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### WORLD

The attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad shows that Iran can still strike at American interests.

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## Local

### Man arrested for alleged sex abuse

Police arrested last New then-15-year-old girl on Rota Year's Day a 28-year-old man last Oct. 6. who allegedly had sex with a Justin Babauta Pangelinan

was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on Pangelinan and set the preliminary hearing for Jan. 10.

The Office of the Public Defender was appointed counsel of Pangelinan. Assistant attorney general Erin Toolan appeared for the government.

According to police detective Ben Atalig, an employee of a school on Rota reported the alleged sex between Pangelinan and the 15-year-old girl to the Department of Public Safety last Oct. 9.

It was allegedly learned that Pangelinan communicated with the girl through social media. Investigators then obtained text messages from Pangelinan telling the girl to hide their relationship from her parents.

Investigators learned that Pangelinan and the girl walked around the island and then entered an abandoned house last Oct. 6. The girl was allegedly in pain after having sex with Pangelinan.

Atalig said Pangelinan admitted he had sex with the girl during an interview on Oct. 14. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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## BECQ resumes monthly cleanup in Garapan

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Start the year right by volunteering!

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade is back and off to a clean start with a cleanup activity, as they are set to pick up trash from the Carolinian Utt to the Garapan Fishing Base tomorrow, Jan. 4.

Volunteers who would like to help can meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Carolinian Utt parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will be split into groups and clean until 10am, break for drinks, and then continue, if needed.

"The cleanup brigade has been brought back to remind us that the simplest act counts toward the bigger efforts of a

safer and healthier island environment," BECQ's Zabrina Shai said.

The last activity of the Cleanup Brigade was in June last year.

The BECQ is looking forward to a successful year of monthly cleanups and is inviting everyone to join the brigade. "Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy," Shai said.

Established in 1997, the Cleanup Brigade consists of dedicated BECQ staff and community volunteers who meet every first Saturday of the month at 8am to clean up a pre-chosen location for two hours.

The trash is hauled away for disposal at the Marpi landfill,

to prevent it from becoming marine debris. Last year, during the International Coastal Cleanup, Saipan volunteers collected almost 6,000 lbs of trash from all over the island.

The location of the monthly cleanup varies throughout the year, and will be posted on <https://www.facebook.com/CNMIBECQ/>.

If you want to volunteer, or for more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1.

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## Small craft advisory in effect today

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm today, Friday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, east winds of 15 to 20 knots are expected with occasional gusts in excess of 25 knots.

Combined seas of 8 to 11 feet will subside to 7 to 10 feet overnight and should fall below 10 feet today. Highest seas will be east of the islands.

Marine conditions are hazardous for the operation of small craft. The EOC is advising the public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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# US govt settles seaman's lawsuit over Japan accident

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed the entire lawsuit filed by a merchant seaman against the U.S. government over the alleged injuries he suffered aboard a ship at a dock in Japan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice Kenneth Lockhart's case after the parties informed the court last Tuesday that

they have settled the lawsuit. This means Lockhart can no longer refile the case.

Each party is to bear its own attorneys' fees and court costs. The judge will retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the settlement deal as necessary. Manglona directed the clerk to close the case.

William M. Fitzgerald and Sean E. Frink, counsel for Lockhart and the U.S. government, respectively, requested the dismissal of the case

after informing the court about their settlement. The parties said they would provide the court a copy of the settlement deal.

The settlement deal had yet to be filed in court as of press time yesterday.

Last July, Manglona granted the request by the parties to issue an order that protects confidentiality of confidential information in connection with the lawsuit.

Manglona agreed that a protec-

tive order is appropriate as the parties anticipate that they will be exchanging confidential personal and medical records.

The parties also anticipate having potential records which should be protected due to the incidents complained of involving a U.S. naval vessel and personnel.

Lockhart, an American who is a resident of Saipan, alleged in his lawsuit that he suffered when a loaded palate tilted and pinned him against

the railings aboard a ship at a dock in Japan in 2016.

Lockhart said the U.S. owned the vessel USNS *Montford Point*, which was operated and managed by Ocean Shipholdings Inc.

Lockhart sued the U.S. for negligence under the Jones Act, for unseaworthiness, and failure to maintain and cure the vessel.

Lockhart demanded damages, medical expenses, loss of earnings, and court costs.



KFC/Taco Bell and TownHouse staff pose for a photo following their Grand Christmas Raffle last Tuesday at KFC.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

## Over 1,000 take part in KFC and Townhouse raffle

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

TownHouse Furniture and Appliances, along with KFC/Taco Bell Saipan, concluded their annual Grand Christmas Raffle last Dec. 31, selecting the winners from over 1,000 entries.

KFC/Taco Bell store manager Yole Aldan estimates that, since starting the raffle back in October, they gained over 1,000 entries between their establishment and TownHouse.

The winners of this year's raffle were Ed Javier, for KFC, and Philloon Lee, for TownHouse. Both winners were not present for the raffle drawing at KFC last Tuesday.

"Congratulations to the winner. We hope you will continue to

come back to KFC and Taco Bell and thank you for patronizing Taco Bell," said Aldan.

Aldan said Javier is a regular customer who works at IT&E and regularly comes to KFC in the morning for breakfast.

Aldan said that KFC has been holding this appreciation raffle for their customers in the past four years, but this was their first year to partner with TownHouse.

"We actually do this every year, we always have a Christmas raffle promo but this is the first time we partnered with TownHouse but we have separate winners. One of their customers will be winning and one of our customers will also be winning," she said.

Robmar Diaz, TownHouse store manager, said their winner, Lee, got his raffle tickets—14 tickets in all—after purchasing a sofa set worth \$749.

"Congratulations and thank you for trusting TownHouse with your household needs," he said.

Diaz said this is their third year hosting the Christmas raffle since 2015, after a break in 2018 as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu, which left their store in ruins.

"We do this raffle every year since October 2015. This is our third year because we didn't have one last year due to Super Typhoon Yutu. But we do this in appreciation to our customers for always patronizing TownHouse," he said.

## Santos scores Mangloña on delegation's session scheduling

By **IVA MAURIN**  
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REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) faulted Sen. Paul A. Mangloña (Ind-Rota) last December for scheduling a delegation session that she said flouted several considerations, including logistical reasons and proper protocol.

This is in response to the emergency delegation session called by Mangloña, chairman of the 21st Rota Legislative Delegation, to confirm new board members for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation last Dec. 18 at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room.

"I must remind the chairman that there is a specific protocol in place for the confirmation of municipal board members," Santos said in her letter to Mangloña. "It is the delegation's duty to provide the mayor of Rota our advice and consent for any municipal appointment, and that we do so with transparency to the people of Rota."

Santos enumerated the conditions that the delegations have to meet, including asking each nominee for required documents, holding of public hearings for each nominee, filing of a committee report recommending their confirmation (or not), and if their confirmation is recommended, calling a delegation session for their confirmation.

"It would be irresponsible for the delegation to address this issue at [an] emergency session without

having completed the aforementioned steps," she said.

Santos also listed logistical issues that Mangloña should have considered before releasing the emergency session call, primarily that the nominees and current foundation members had not been informed that the confirmation hearing would be taking place.

The call for the emergency session was also questioned as the issue was presented over two months ago, when Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig submitted his nomination letters for the foundation to the delegation on Oct. 10, 2019.

The Rota senator also raised the difficulty associated with convening on Rota, given the secretary of Finance's request for at least a one-week advance notice to process the delegation staff's travel authorizations to Rota.

"The chairman must be aware that both I and delegation floor leader [Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota)] have published off-island notices for this week," Santos stated. "If the chairman's motivation for this emergency session is to confirm new RMSF board members, why would the chairman knowingly schedule the session when a quorum cannot be reached?"

Santos laments that the timing of the emergency session is questionable. As a consequence of the emergency session, two of the nominees would be unable to attend their own confirmation.

## MARGARET

From Page 1

"We came in around 8 in the morning of Dec. 31 and she gave birth at around 12pm on New Year's Day," said Dave.

Joanna explained that she developed diabetes during her pregnancy with Margaret Cano, her first time to have that since giving birth to her first three children, so doctors had to monitor her blood sugar level. Had it

been too high, she would have to undergo a caesarian section.

Her diabetes was also the reason for her earlier delivery. Joanna said that she was due Jan. 15 but was told to come in on Dec. 31 to monitor her blood sugar.

During her checkup, doctors found that Margaret Cano was facing sideways within the womb and had to be repositioned correctly, in preparation for her birth. Doctors later informed Joanna that once the baby was in position, she would

have to go into labor and delivery.

Dave and Joanna have two other daughters and one son. Their eldest daughter is 9 years old, followed by their son who is 7, and their third child who is 2 years old.

Rhonda DiCostanzo, a certified nurse midwife practitioner and the one assigned to Margaret Cano, confirmed the long labor but said the delivery was quick.

"She was in labor for quite a while but when she was ready to give birth, she delivered very quickly [that] I

barely had any time to get my gloves on and she delivered at 12:37pm. Baby is doing really well and the mom was a pro; this was her fourth baby. I was just happy to be there," she said.

DiCostanzo said it was very exciting to welcome the first baby of the decade.

"First baby of the decade, very exciting, we're very happy to welcome the little girl into the world," she said.

As has become tradition, representatives from MarPac came in yesterday to visit Margaret Cano and her

parents, bearing a one-month supply of newborn baby supplies.

According to Thomas Babauta-Basa, MarPac consumer manager, MarPac provided about a month's supply of Enfamil infant formula, diapers, Kotex pads, bags, and baby wipes.

"We would just like to congratulate the new parents. Since 2013, when we started the baby New Year, the first baby that is born in the new year, we provide gifts for both the mom and the baby. We do so as a means to give back to our community," he said.

## 4 FILE

From Page 1

couple is considered one bankruptcy case.

Under Chapter 7 bankruptcy, most assets of the debtor are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off his or

her creditors to the extent possible and to free the debtor to start anew.

Under Chapter 13 bankruptcy, debtors propose a repayment plan to make installments to creditors over three to five years. Also known as reorganization bankruptcy, it enables individuals with regular income to develop a plan to repay all

or part of their debts, according to U.S. courts.

In 2018, no individual or business filed a bankruptcy petition before the U.S. District Court for the NMI's Bankruptcy Division. It was the first time in over a decade in the CNMI that no one filed for bankruptcy.

Some people said the CNMI's good

economy in 2018 was possibly a factor for the zero bankruptcy cases.

Timothy H. Bellas and Alexis Fallon handle most of the bankruptcy cases in the CNMI. Bellas is now in the U.S. mainland.

In 2017, five bankruptcy cases were filed in the District Court. Except for Saipan Sea Ventures, all cas-

es were filed by individuals.

In 2016, only four bankruptcy cases were filed. All were individuals.

In 2015, eight bankruptcy cases were filed, including that of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

In 2005, 31 bankruptcy cases were filed, the all-time highest record of such cases in the CNMI.



## 2022 eyed for ban on Styrofoam containers

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) is proposing to make the year 2022 the cutoff period for the CNMI to allow the use of Styrofoam food containers.

A bill that Blanco has introduced in the CNMI House of Representatives, House Bill 21-89, proposes to ban the use of disposable food containers made of expanded polystyrene or EPS, commonly known as Styrofoam, in the CNMI in two years' time.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the International Agency for Research on Cancer consider EPS as a "possible human carcinogen."

H.B. 21-89 proposes to prohibit the use of certain EPS disposable food service containers beginning Jan. 1, 2022. These include service ware for take-out foods, packaged meat, eggs, bakery products, and leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by food vendors. It does not include polystyrene foam coolers or ice chests used for the processing or shipping of seafood.

The two-year timeframe is intended to allow restaurants and other food establishments on the islands to adjust and exhaust their existing inventory, and then seek disposable food service containers that are safer for the environment.

Aside from being a possible human carcinogen, EPS widely impacts the environment, filling up landfills and harming marine life. About 80% of it ends up in landfills (2.3 million tons of the 3 million produced in the United States every year), and the remaining in the waterways.

According to the EPA, once in the landfill, it can take more than a million years for a polystyrene product to decompose. Further, EPS breaks down into smaller pieces in time, which marine animals mistake for food. Tiny foam pieces, less than 2.5cm, were among the Top 10 most collected trash in the CNMI, in last year's International Coastal Cleanup.

If it becomes a law, violators would have to pay a fine of not more than \$100.

H.B. 21-89 complements the Plastic Bag Bill (S.B. 21-37) that the Senate recently passed.

Last Dec. 20, Rep. Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) pre-filed H.B. 21-95 to ban single-use carryout bags. *(Iva Maurin)*

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# 2010 to 2019: A look back at the '10s

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

## 2010

■ Partial government shut-down and payless paydays.

■ Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is reelected in a sweeping victory.

■ The Palms Resort closes two years after it took over Hotel Nikko in February 2008.

■ Qingmei Cheng, a 28-year old masseuse who was detained in Susupe on federal charges of trying to sneak into Guam, ignites a political firestorm after it was revealed that she was temporarily released from her cell to provide massage therapy to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial during the early morning hours of Jan. 8.

## 2011

■ From work hour cuts to joblessness, shrinking consumer base, high cost of living, and even delayed release of tax rebate and scholarship checks—almost everything that went wrong boiled down to a single factor: the dismal economy.

■ The mysterious disappearance of the Luhk sisters—Falomina and Maleina—near their residence in As Teo on May 25.

■ Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona sworn in as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI for a 10-year term.

■ Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) was arrested on ice-trafficking charges.

## 2012

■ Arctic Circle Air launches cargo services.



■ More China and Russian flights arrive. Tourists were welcomed aboard China Eastern Airlines and AviaCharter DV.

■ E-Land Group, through its subsidiary E-Land Park, bought Palms Resort Saipan for \$20 million from United Micronesia Development Association. The real estate company also became the majority owner of Coral Ocean Point and purchased stocks of Pacific Island Club Saipan.

■ Saipan Grand Hotel was rebranded as Kanoa Resort Saipan.

## 2013

■ Gov. Benigno R. Fitial resigns on Feb. 20, 2013, days after the House of Representatives impeached him on charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

■ Three die in Star Mari-

anas plane crash—pilot Luis Silva and two Chinese tourists, a 29-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman.

■ CNMI community pitches in to help Haiyan victims in the Philippines

■ Conviction of Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu for smuggling endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan.

## 2014

■ CNMI government and Best Sunshine International Ltd. ink \$7.1-billion casino development agreement.

■ Gov. Eloy S. Inos and then-Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres top the general elections.

■ A police officer fatally shoots his former girlfriend with his service firearm and then himself.

■ Bench trial of former

attorney general Edward T. Buckingham in Superior Court. He was found guilty of all public corruption charges except one and was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

■ The jury trial of Joseph A. Crisostomo over the kidnapping, rape, killing, and robbing of bartender Emerita R. Romero began on April 7.

■ Chinatsu and Natsuki Yamasa disappear in Marpi on June 30. Their car rental was recovered at Wing Beach.

■ Rota Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu sentenced to 41-month prison term for conspiring to violate the Endangered Species Act.

■ Best Sunshine gives the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. \$10 million, allowing CUC to distribute \$635.71 worth of vouchers to CNMI residential

FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
Super Typhoon Yutu clobbered the CNMI near the end of 2018. The Coral Ocean Point is one of the hotels in the CNMI that is considered to have sustained the most damage.

accounts in early October.

## 2015

■ From what was forecasted as a Category 2, Typhoon Soudelor later turned out to be a ferocious Category 4 cyclone, with overwater wind intensity of 130 miles per hour and peak gust of 165 mph.

■ Gov. Eloy S. Inos dies. He was 66 years old.

■ Former governor Benigno R. Fitial pleads guilty to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services.

■ Best Sunshine International, Ltd. launched Saipan's first and only live-gaming casino on Nov. 28.

■ The Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino closes its doors on Aug. 14.

■ Department of Public Lands opens bid for Mariana Resort lot; resort assigned lease to Best Sunshine.

## 2016

■ Lack of manpower continues to hound the CNMI.

■ Imperial Pacific International Holdings, the lone casino licensee on Saipan, is thrust into the spotlight after an article on Bloomberg claimed that the U.S. Department of the Treasury is looking into its casino operations.

■ The CNMI had a mid-term election in November; Republican Party candidates

See 2010 on Next Page

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<b>WEDDING</b>				
<b>Lunch &amp; Dinner</b>	① 1 "Wed. / Fri. Lunch Buffet" G.C. for 2 pax (\$44)	① 1 "Sunday Brunch" G.C. for 2 pax (\$64)	① 1 Wedding Cake (7inch, \$53) ② 1 "Sunday Brunch" G.C. for 2 pax (\$64)	① 1 Wedding Cake (7inch, \$53) ② 1 "Seafood Night" G.C. for 2 pax (\$80) ③ 1 free btl of Champagne for toast (\$30)
<b>BIRTHDAY</b>				
<b>Lunch &amp; Dinner</b>	② 1 free Birthday Cake (7 inch / \$33)	① 1 free Birthday Cake (7 inch / \$33) ② 1 "Wed. / Fri. Lunch Buffet" G.C. for 2 pax (\$44)	① 1 free Birthday Cake (9 inch / \$53) ② 1 "Sunday Brunch" G.C. for 2 pax (\$64)	① 1 Birthday Cake (7inch, \$53) ② 1 "Seafood Night" G.C. for 2 pax (\$80) ③ 1 free btl of Champagne for toast (\$30)

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## 2010

From Page 6

dominated the polls.

■ Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto sues Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owners/operators of Luta Mermaid LLC, that owns the M/V Luta for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

## 2017

■ A total of 3,000 slots are removed from the CNMI-only Transitional Worker Program, or the CW-1 program, for fiscal year 2018. The numerical limit for the CW-1 program is set at 9,998, down from 12,998.

■ Sen Sun, an alleged overstaying tourist, is indicted for operating a birth tourism business on Saipan.

■ Three Filipino workers are killed inside a sewer lift station of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in San Antonio on July 7.

■ Construction workers stage protests over the lack of payment of contractors hired by Imperial Pacific International LLC.

■ The Public School System's Board of Education sacks Education commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero.

## 2018

■ Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut hit the CNMI in the latter part of this year.

■ Several Public School System campuses sustained damage from Super Typhoon Yutu, including the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Oleai Elementary School, and Marianas High School. The Northern Marianas College also sustained

heavy damage, causing it to cancel classes for over a month since the typhoon.

■ Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios of the Republican Party win the Nov. 13 general election for governor and lieutenant governor.

■ The CNMI legalizes the medicinal and recreational use of marijuana on Sept. 21.

■ U.S. President Donald Trump extends the CW program by 10 more years on July 25, 2018.

■ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services terminates the humanitarian parole of close to 2,000 workers.

■ A federal grand jury indicted Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig in federal court in September on fraud charges.

■ TanHoldings Corp., together with its charitable arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, pledged to donate \$1 million to recovery efforts in the CNMI.

■ Delta Air Lines, ends its service to Saipan and Palau last May 6, 2018.

■ The CNMI economy grew by 25.1% in 2017 based on the gross domestic product estimates released by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

## 2019

■ On Nov. 7, 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation executed several search warrants on the Governor's Office; Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' house; an office of casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC; the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for the casino; Legend Realty Saipan; and the Torres Brothers' law office, to

look for evidence of possible fraud, money laundering, and other federal violations.

■ A Skymark Airlines Inc. Boeing 737-800 plane carrying 177 passengers touched down at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last Nov. 29 for its inaugural non-stop daily regular direct flight from Tokyo to Japan.

■ Twenty-two-year-old Akiyama Eiki drowned on Bird Island on Jan. 1, 2019. On Jan. 4, Aurelio del Prado, 74, died after being hit by a car as he was crossing the street across Joeten Dandan. On Oct. 26, a car drove off Banzai Cliff; a body has yet to be found. A car collision on Dec.

16, killed Sergio Apostol, who later succumbed at the hospital to multiple injuries.

■ On March 23, police found a decomposing body in Kagman. On April 5, a dead man is found under a concrete bench in Chalan Kanoa's district 4. On May 13, a man is found dead near Dandan Middle School.

■ On May 28, police officers came upon an unconscious Dong Pabalinas along Beach Road. He was later pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center.

■ On Aug. 13, an elderly woman was found dead in a home in Finasisu. On Nov. 25, a decomposing body of a still unidentified person was found

in the outer cove of Bird Island.

■ On Nov. 12, an inmate of the Department of Corrections prison in Susupe was found dead, with unofficial reports claiming that he hung himself.

■ On Dec. 13, two women, Li Na Lim, 42, and Linhua Cui, 54, were found dead inside Rice Cake Best Food Restaurant in San Antonio. The women were shot.

■ CNMI government implements a 72-hour bi-weekly work schedule beginning June 23, 2019, as the government prioritized recovery efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu. It was lifted on Nov. 24, 2019.

■ Effective Oct. 3, 2019,

the length of time that Chinese tourists are allowed to stay in the CNMI was cut from 45 days to just 14 days instead.

■ The Commonwealth Cannabis Commission was created in early September 2019.

■ H.R. 559 is enacted on June 26, 2019, providing CNMI-only residence for an estimated 1,039 humanitarian parolees.

■ Last Oct. 3, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security stopped the entry of Russian tourists to the CNMI and Guam without first obtaining a U.S. visa.

■ The Pacific Epidemic and Emerging Disease Alert confirmed the presence of dengue fever in the Marianas in November.

# ABSOLUTE

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9D173	CX-3 SPORT 2.0L 5WGN <b>SOLD</b>	\$7,000	\$16,995
9D156	MAZDA 6 SPORT 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$7,000	\$19,995
9D170	CX-9 SPORT 2.5L 5WGN <b>SOLD</b>	\$7,000	\$19,995
9D114	MAZDA 6 GT 2.5L 4SDN TURBO 8 SPD TRANS	\$6,000	\$23,995
19D199	CX-5 SIGNATURE 2.5L 5WGN 6ETA AWD	\$8,000	\$27,995
9D196	MX-5 CLUB 2.0L 2DR. 6MT S/TOP	\$9,000	\$29,995



STOCK#	MODEL	SAVINGS	PRICE
20H033	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H031	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER <b>SOLD</b> REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H029	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H018	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER <b>SOLD</b> REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H010	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER <b>SOLD</b> REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H014	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER, REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
20H015	ELANTRA 1.6L CD PLAYER <b>SOLD</b> REAR VIEW CAMERA	\$7,000	\$15,995
9H099	KONA L 2.0L 5WGN 2WD <b>SOLD</b>	\$8,000	\$16,995
0H001	2020 VELOSTER ULTIMATE 1.6L TURBO	\$9,000	\$19,995
0H002	2020 VELOSTER ULTIMATE 1.6L TURBO	\$9,000	\$19,995
0H012	2020 ELANTRA SPORT MT 2.0L 4SDN	\$7,000	\$19,995
0H019	2020 ELANTRA SPORT <b>SOLD</b> 2.0L 4SDN	\$7,000	\$19,995
0H022	2020 ELANTRA SPORT AT 2.0L 4SDN	\$7,000	\$19,995



STOCK#	MODEL	SAVINGS	PRICE
20M001	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO <b>SOLD</b> 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
M002	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO <b>SOLD</b> 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
M009	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO CVT 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
M010	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO <b>SOLD</b> 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
M011	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO CVT 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995
M012	ECLIPSE CROSS 1.5L TURBO CVT 2WD	\$9,000	\$19,995

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18HS839	2018 MAZDA3	\$4,154	\$11,995
4HS580	2014 MUSTANG	\$7,324	\$9,995
4HS709	2014 EXP <b>SOLD</b>	\$4,576	\$14,995
5HS667	2015 SED <b>SOLD</b>	\$6,390	\$9,995
5HS735	2015 EXPEDITION	\$12,735	\$24,995
6HS682	2016 ELANTRA	\$3,845	\$9,995
6HS717	2016 SEDONA	\$4,255	\$12,995
6HS719	2016 SEDONA	\$4,390	\$12,995
7HS779	2017 ACC <b>SOLD</b>	\$3,458	\$9,995
7HS781	2017 ACCENT	\$4,186	\$9,995
7HS784	2017 ACCENT	\$3,987	\$9,995
7HS796	2017 ELANTRA	\$3,845	\$11,995
7HS804	2017 LAN <b>SOLD</b>	\$4,652	\$11,995
7HS806	2017 LANCER	\$5,162	\$11,995

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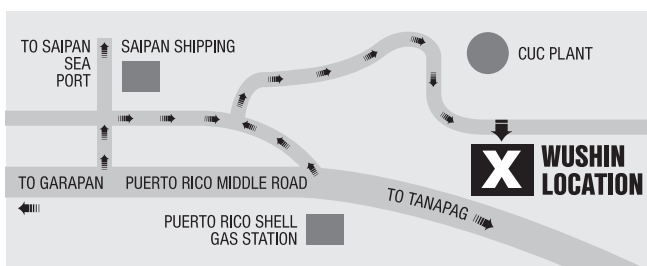


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# Super Typhoon Network hosts Winter Island Music Fest



Kapena shows the CNMI they still got it in a performance at the Winter Island Music Fest at the Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Super Typhoon Network hosted the Winter Island Music Fest at the Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 29.

According to one of Super Typhoon Network's members, Jay H. Aldan, the event is one of the many festivals in the Island Music Festival series.

"We want to bring three per year. So the next one is still going to be an Island Music Festival and it's going to be called 'Reggae on the

Runway,'" said Aldan.

Kapena was the headliner in last Sunday's music festival that also featured Parker Yobei, Ka'ikena Scanlan, DJ Hapa Boy, Francis Peter, Ollei Band, Marianas Project, Young Goddhy, Daggu Diggers, Sensei United, and Studio 29:11.

Major sponsors include Budweiser, Census 2020, Bridge Capital, DNR Visuals, Hertz, and KKMP. (Justine Nauta)



Young Goddhy performs onstage at the Winter Island Music Fest at the Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of Studio 29:11 perform at the Winter Island Music Fest at the Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Volunteers hold down the fort at the bar. From left, Mike Omar, Becky Mettao, Josie Kapaleo, Julie Omar, and Malcolm Castro.

JUSTINE NAUTA



The CNMI Census 2020 team. From left, Frank Camacho, Erica Cabrera, Annalisa Blas, Tioni Alvarez, Chantel Royal, Carl Kaneshi, Frances Xavier, and Joaquin Salas.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Leo De Lima helps sell merchandise at the Roil Soil booth.

JUSTINE NAUTA



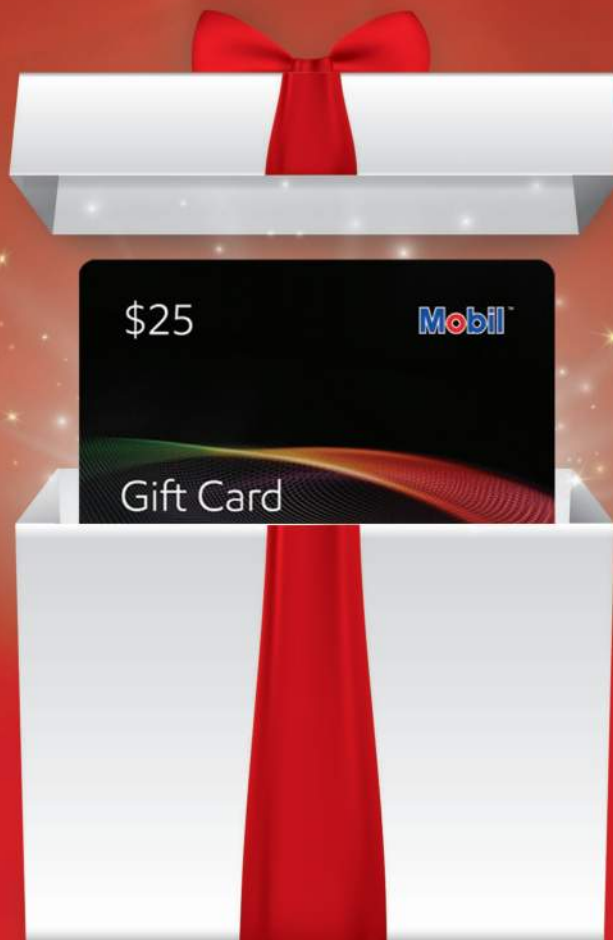
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Attendees line up to get their tickets for the Winter Island Music Fest at the Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the audience wait for the Winter Island Music Fest to start at the Garapan Fishing Base last Dec. 29.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# Building a roof to endure a super typhoon

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Permanent Housing Construction Repair Program is committed to repairing the homes of eligible survivors and helping the community build more resilient homes. Concrete roofs provide the ultimate protection for a home and Permanent Housing New Construction homes will be equipped with that, but not all homes are structurally designed to support them. PHC repaired homes are evaluated and then have engineered roofs designed specifically for each home to withstand winds of up to 195 mph. There are also many protective steps all home owners can easily incorporate in their own repairs.

When you begin rebuilding your home, consider these basic strategies to make your home more resilient against typhoons. First and foremost are typhoon/hurricane straps. These straps help ensure that the roof has additional anchor points to the main structure and lessens the likelihood of the roof lifting off during high wind. It is recommended that there be a hurricane tie from every rafter to every purlin and nails in every hole of that tie.

Next and perhaps the easiest thing that all homeowners can do is to ensure that metal roofs are installed with screws instead of nails. The most commonly recommended screw is a #9HH self-tapping screw with a sealing washer. These screws should be placed no more than 18 to 24 inches apart and installed as recommended by the manufacture on either the rib or the flat of the roofing tin into the purlin.

The sheer force of typhoon-strength winds can destroy buildings, topple trees, bring down powerlines, and blow vehicles off roads. When flying debris, such as signs, roofing material, building siding, and items left outside or similar, the potential for building damage is even greater. Threats to human safety from flying debris are equally severe. Typhoon winds impact homes and other buildings in several ways. Ensuring your roof is properly secured is the first step in ensuring that not only



Typhoon/hurricane straps help ensure that the roof has additional anchor points to the main structure and lessens the likelihood of the roof lifting off during high WIND.

BILL BRADLEY

your home is protected, but that also neither your neighbor’s home nor exposed power lines are not damaged by flying debris either.

Shutters on windows is a great protection from flying debris. Using some type of bracket to the wall above and below the windows with plywood may be the most cost-effective way to provide some protection from the elements. There are also manufactured shutters available that add a higher degree of protection but are costlier.

These are just a few things to consider and discuss when working with a contractor or doing the repairs yourself. While all homes are different and needs may vary from house to house, we urge you to consider these helpful tips when making the repairs yourself or working with a contractor. Typhoon-proofing a house is a lot of work, from design to construction, but FEMA is committed with CNMI to help build a more resilient homes and an even stronger community. *(PR)*

## COTA will be open Sundays and holidays starting today

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

This new year, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority will be extending its services. Starting today, Saipan residents can avail of COTA’s demand response shared ride and fixed route services even on Sundays and on all CNMI legal holidays.

Demand response is a “call-a-ride service,” a reservation-based, curb-to-curb, and door-to-door service for anyone and anywhere on the island, while the fixed route service is a bus system with a fixed route from the Northern Marianas College to Paseo de Marianas, and back.

“Expanding our services to accommodate Sundays and CNMI legal holidays validates the need for public transportation in our community,” said special assistant for Public Transportation Al-freda P. Camacho.

COTA recorded a total of 7,668 trips last year and it has noted an increase in demand for COTA’s services over the last month.

Camacho expressed appreciation to all of COTA’s clients and to the whole community for trusting the transit authority to get them to their places of employment, doctor’s appointments, among others.


COTA also assures the public that they will continue to do their best to serve each and every single person who calls the CNMI home.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that the expansion on the days of service will assist residents as they get around the island.

“Public transportation is a critical need for our community, and we are making steady progress in expanding service on Saipan and eventually on Tinian and Rota,” Torres added.


Reservations and hours of operations for Sundays and holidays will be from 6:30am to 4pm.

To make reservations, call COTA’s One-Call/One-Click Transportation Information Resource Center at (670) 664-2690 at least two business days before the desired ride.



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## AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

12/20/19  
Notice for Public Comment  
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2018/691	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	CNMI Office of Grants Management	\$287,212.40	(\$106,466.00)	\$180,746.40	\$287,212.40
		<b>Total Reprogrammed from Activities:</b>					
2018/699	CDBG	Purchase of Fire Pumper Truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Services	\$450,000.00	\$106,466.00	\$556,466.00	\$450,000.00
		<b>Total Reprogrammed to Activities:</b>			<b>\$106,466.00</b>		


Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before January 7, 2019, no later than 4:30 p.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director



### DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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## NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of January 03, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Public Works	12/13/2019 SSWm-2020-X-015	Island Wide Emergency Repair, Traffic Signs, EY-10(002)	Island Wide, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 12/26/2019
2. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	12/23/2019 SPI-2020-X-018	Aggreko Temporary Power Generation Site	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 12/23/2019
3. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	12/26/2019 SW-2020-X-019	Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation	Kagman, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
4. Mariana Islands Nature Alliance	12/26/2019 STSLR-2020-X-020	Typhoon Debris Removal	Tinian Harbor & Southern Part of Saipan Lagoon	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
5. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	12/26/2019 SSm-2020-X-021	3rd Annual Triple J 5k Family Fun Run/Walk	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
6. Department of Lands & Natural Resources	12/19/2019 RSm-2019-X-1203	Solar Light Installation	Rota	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



## Two women arrested for alleged check forgery

Between Oct. 23, 2019, and Dec. 11, 2019, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received several 911 calls from business establishments on Saipan reporting forged checks. Police were dispatched to the scenes, and confirmed the reports. Police documented the cases, and requested for an arrest warrant for two suspects.



Camacho



Faisao

On Dec. 27, 2019, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio signed and authorized the issuance of a

search warrant of Emerita Q. Camacho's residence in Susupe. Arrest warrants for Emerita Q. Camacho, and Carlene Faisao were also signed, with a cash bail set at \$20,000 for each one. They face charges of misuse of a financial instrument and con-

spiracy to commit misuse of a financial instrument.

On Dec. 30, 2019, at about 12:06pm, police executed the arrest warrants for both individuals in Susupe. Camacho and Faisao were then brought to the Department of Correc-

tions where they were both booked and detained. During the search of the residence, evidence including the checks that were allegedly used to commit forgery and theft were recovered.

DPS would like to remind the business owners to be diligent when accepting checks or other forms of payment from un-

known/unfamiliar individuals.

This case remains ongoing. If you or someone you know are victims of a theft/forgery incident, call 911 to report it. If you have any information on individuals committing a similar crime and would like to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (PR)

## Water service interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there is a scheduled water service interruption for customers in As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, Achugao, and Lower Base due to low water supply in the As Matuis water tank. Customer is the affected areas will experience a scheduled water outage on Saturday from 8pm to 6am. Water service is dependent on the tank level.

Over the past week, CUC has been performing leak detection in the affected areas to locate possible leak(s) that may be the cause of the low water tank level. Several leaks have been identified and repaired within the last week; however, the amount of water produced from the wells still cannot keep up with the demand on the dis-

tribution system.

CUC will continue to perform leak detection in the affected areas and perform leak repairs when identified. In addition, one water well that was offline is currently undergoing a pump and motor replacement to help provide additional water source for the As Matuis Tank Service Area to improve water service hours.

CUC urges customers in these areas to practice water conservation and to contact the CUC Customer Call Center to report any leaks for repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

## Burglary incident in Garapan

On Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019, at about 8:57pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary incident at an apartment in Garapan. Police were dispatched to the scene.

Police arrived on scene at about 9:03pm and met with the caller who lives in the

neighboring unit. The caller told officers that the neighbor's unit appears to have been burglarized as the front door was left open, with items and clothing scattered throughout the room. Shortly after, the tenant of the burglarized unit met with officers and confirmed that their apartment had indeed been bur-

glarized. The victim also told the officers that this was the second time that this had happened to their unit. After the first incident, the tenant put up anti-burglar bars around the windows, but forgot to secure the bathroom window before leaving for work.

No items were reported missing to police yet, as an inventory of the apartment has yet to be done.

DPS would like to remind the public to be diligent when purchasing electronics or other valuables from unknown individuals.

This case remains ongoing. If you have any information on the incident that took place the apartment unit located in Garapan, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (PR)

## EOC: Stay out of the water

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Friday, and there is a high risk of rip currents through this afternoon.

A high surf advisory means that high surf will affect beaches in the advisory area, producing localized beach

erosion and dangerous swimming conditions.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point is advising the public

to avoid venturing near the reef line, especially along north and east facing reefs. Large waves may knock you down and injure you. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Along north facing reefs, expect hazardous surf of 8 to 11 feet to gradually subside to between 7

and 10 feet overnight. Surf could fall below hazardous levels Friday. The risk of rip currents is high.

Along east facing reefs, surf of 8 to 10 feet will continue below advisory levels but enough to generate a high risk of rip currents. The risk of rip currents may fall to moderate by tonight. (Saipan Tribune)

## Rotary takes on maintenance of airport signage

The Rotary Club of Saipan has taken on the responsibility of maintaining the airport sign leading to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, which has been unkempt for many years now.

Saipan Rotary Club president Marcia Ayuyu said the club officially took on the responsibility of maintaining the welcome sign since late 2019.

Ayuyu said that the sign is the first thing tourists see when they

arrive and it shows how much the island appreciates their visit.

"It's really to just...thank them for coming and to encourage them to continue to visit our islands," she said.

Ayuyu said they have cleaned up the sign, installed lights, and are working on the landscaping.

The Rotary Club of Saipan is also working on putting up a sign at the Beach Road intersection by Atkins Kroll-Toyota.

"We're going to do this at the intersection; it's a welcome sign. I want that to be really visible with our guests," she said. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

# BIG HOT PASTRAMI MELT

on Sunflower Crunch Bread



Juicy cut pepper crusted beef, slices of crispy pickles, yellow mustard and melted provolone cheese.



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Mobil Airport Road Service Station  
Mobil Barrigada Heights Service Station  
Mobil Yigo North Service Station  
Mobil Ysengsong Service Station

Naval Hospital  
NEXCOM Bldg #258  
NEX Mini Mart/Gas Station  
Tumon

**SAIPAN LOCATIONS:**  
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Chalan Piao  
Paseo de Marianas, Garapan

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# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Why do American schoolchildren underperform academically compared to students in other countries?

Every time the results of the international PISA test are released, the United States gets another opportunity to whip itself for students' lackluster showing. For those who are unfamiliar with it, PISA is the Program for International Student Assessment, a test administered to students in 79 countries around the world. It allows critics on both sides of the school reform debate to peer at the results of other nations, compare them to the U.S. outcomes and find examples that appear to confirm their own beliefs about why our 15-year-olds are not at the top of the heap in science, math and reading.

Those opposed to standardized testing and accountability measures look at Finland's high scores and point out that in that country, there are no mandatory standardized tests until the end of senior year of high school. Children are encouraged to play more. Their school days are shorter and no one attempts to hold teachers accountable according to a rigid rubric. The students are given very little homework. The nation's scores and ranking have slid over the past decade, but it still consistently outshines the U.S.

Meanwhile, fans of charter schools and of more regular testing are likely to hold up Singapore and South Korea as models. Singapore's curriculum is highly scripted and pretty much the same across the nation—something that the Obama administration hoped to emulate through its Common Core curriculum. Teachers continually prepare students for high-stakes tests and depend heavily on worksheets and drills. South Korean families depend heavily on private tutoring to help their children perform well on high-stakes tests. Students in these two countries also outperform American students on the PISA test.

But if Finland, Singapore and South Korea are all doing better than we are, that suggests there may be a factor at play other than how we teach. And indeed there is something that all three of these nations, and every other country that outranks the United States on the PISA test, have in common: lower rates of child poverty. And poverty is a major factor in how well students perform on the tests.

"Socio-economically disadvantaged students across OECD countries are almost three times more likely than advantaged students not to attain the baseline level of proficiency in science," PISA reported in a 2018 paper.

Though the United States is by most measures a wealthy country, it is one with many poor people. A 2017 Unicef report looked at the relative child poverty rates of 41 well-off nations. That's a measure of income inequality, in this case defined as the percent of children living in a household with an income of less than 60% of the median for that nation. The United States ranked seventh from the bottom.

A 2013 study by Stanford University researchers found that the U.S. would rank much higher on the PISA test if it weren't for its higher levels of socioeconomic inequality.

"Because in every country, students at the bottom of the social class distribution perform worse than students higher

See **WHY DO** on next page

## Taiwan

Diversity is a word much bandied about these days in various contexts, mostly social. For our purposes today we want to look at how economic diversity impacts the fragile economy of the CNMI. The answer is...not enough. A diverse economy, with income money coming in from a variety of sources, is less vulnerable to hiccups in the global economy that we have no control over. A diverse economy is able to withstand a sizable economic hit and limp away, still operating where a less diverse or single-source economy often collapses or falls back so far that it takes many years to get back into the game again.

For the CNMI, still sitting here after 15 years of halfhearted effort to expand our economy beyond tourism, we are still a single-source economy—tourism. It is a dangerous industry to rely on because it is so volatile and so vulnerable to outside influences. Nevertheless, that is what we have and all we have. Begging Uncle Sam for grants and emergency assistance has netted us about \$100 million a year average over the decades in non-typhoon years but that is not an industry; it is a part-time job for a high-schooler looking for gas money for his jalopy.

So here we are with a single-source economy, what can we do to maximize its potential? We can look for multiple sources of income within that single source. In our case that means increasing the number of regionally viable countries to bring our tourists and their dollars from. Candidates need to have a few important characteristics to be useful to us: proximity, air service, political stability, and an outbound tourist market big enough to be meaningful are the most important of these. Tourists, like you and me, like to travel to places that are relatively close. Travel time up to three hours is considered "short haul" while up to five or six hours is medium. "Long haul" trips of six hours or more are hard on the body, hard on the wallet and hard on that most important quality of vacationing—time—plus they induce that favorite feeling, jet lag, which eats up even more valuable visitor time.

Enter Taiwan as a candidate. With 23 million mostly prosperous residents, the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in the whole world, a travel time in the upper short haul range and a seasoned traveling public, Taiwan fits our needs perfectly. Back in the early '90s Taiwan provided a fairly consistent 20,000-plus visitors to the CNMI annually. Direct flights were the key then as they would be now to bringing in meaningful numbers of high spending Taiwanese tourists. Having a mature traveling public is both good and bad for us in the CNMI islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It means they are savvy and knowledgeable about destinations and their relative value as vacation spots. That means they are less tolerant about substandard facilities, infrastructure, or ac-

### SOUR GRAPE By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



commodations. It means that, like the Japanese, their more discerning tastes require us to step up our game and make our destination look, feel, and act the part of a welcoming, interesting and well equipped place to visit. We need improvement.

Several years ago, acting on that set of facts, MVA opened an office in Taipei, Taiwan's capital city, with a small but professionally strong staff of experienced promoters. The idea was to generate enough interest in our destination to induce an airline to fly here direct. Sadly, to date, although we have been led all the way to the altar a number of times, no airline has yet introduced a flight from Taiwan to the CNMI. Without it, there will be no meaningful incoming arrival numbers. Those Taiwanese that want to come here (a few hundred per month currently) have to travel through Hong Kong (now politically unstable) or Japan, Korea, the Philippines, or occasionally Guam.

The question is, do we keep whipping that horse, knowing how badly we need the visitor arrivals from a different country or do we give up? I say keep on keeping on until we get those flights. Look at your map and you'll see why. How many countries do you see that fit the needed parameters for a source country as mentioned above? Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Far East Russia and, *maaaaybe* if you stretch it, Australia. Unless there are regional flights to OZ beyond Cannes, you can rule that out. It is another five or six hours south to Sydney and the other population centers. Taiwan is it. East Russia is the only other opportunity and MVA had until recently a promotional office there. That office actually generated a direct flight, which was on track to bring in 20,000 or so annual visitors when the politics and economics of Russia crashed the tourism industry, which is still trying to come back. Maybe later for Russia. As I say, keep on keeping on until we see those China Air or EVA Air flights from Taiwan landing on Saipan.

See **TAIWAN** on next page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****New year message**

Happy New Year, Marianas!

As we close this year and welcome a new one, we want to thank all our government employees for your hard work and service this year. While 2019 was a challenging one for all of us in the midst of our recovery, we appreciate your sacrifices, strength and resiliency.

We are hopeful that 2020 will be a better year for our economy and our islands. Our recovery will be moving faster through our partnership with FEMA and all our other federal partners. We now have the resources to speed up the building of our homes and schools so we can build a Marianas stronger than any storm.

As we begin a new year and a new decade, let us renew our bonds with one another and remind ourselves that we are one family working together to build a more prosperous Marianas.

**Gov. Ralph DLG Torres**  
**Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios**

**Kudos to Tinian MVA**

Congratulations, commendations, and undoubtedly pay raises are in order for Vida Borja and the Tinian Marianas Visitors Authority team. Despite the 2018 budget deficit, compounded by Super Typhoon Yutu, the Tinian MVA team has managed to maintain those historic sites of Tinian assigned to them in Class A condition.

Over the last several years I have had the great good fortune to give historical tours of Tinian to a wide variety of visitors. They have invariably asked me to congratulate whomever is responsible for maintaining Tinian's historic sites. Those accolades were particularly strong this last year, because our guests were well aware of the damage done to Tinian by Super Typhoon Yutu.

In light of the anticipated opening of the Tinian ferry boat service, with roll-on roll-off capability, we can expect a significant influx of "day-packs" from Saipan to Tinian. Visitors arriving from Saipan in their own vehicle will want to visit not only the sites managed by Tinian MVA, but also those not within the current purview of the Tinian MVA team. It would be in the best interest of MVA and the people of Tinian to provide Tinian MVA with the additional manpower, equipment and supplies they need to manage an expanded responsibility. Vida and the Tinian MVA team have demonstrated that they use their resources wisely. Giving them more support for an enlarged responsibility now will help generate more revenues for tomorrow.

**Don Farrell**  
*Marpo Heights, Tinian*

**Singing que sera**

**I**t is a year without lust fading into history quietly too. After all, we didn't see anything major, decisive or exciting that factually made a difference in the year just receded.

And so we take restful stops in the awning of "la mañana" while struggling to look hopelessly intelligent, if not scholarly, or both.

That we haven't done anything of significance encourages walking along the shore with fishing pole to reel in anything I could find and leap with it, blindly. Gee! Is the sentiment the result of the discordant "que sera" from Da Hills of Saipan?

But then it's the usual, you know, laid back attitude singing "make the world go away" while our house is on fire. It must be one grand excuse to feed upon royal mañana. Obviously, there's the lack of urgency all around. EVERbody home?

In spite of it all we're not absolved from the responsibility guiding the fate of our people. So what's your considered view of the most vital issue facing our simple folks at home today?

And I'm not asking this query of the alleged leadership on Da Hills of Saipan. With any decent IQ they ought to know better than any of us, sayu?

**Phenomenon**

Homelessness of fellow citizens has reached crisis level across the fruited plain. In California alone nearly 200,000 families are without a roof over their heads.

So most have simply placed canopies along the streets and call it home. These folks comprise of the jobless, mentally ill and other filial setbacks. Throwing money at it isn't the answer either.

State and federal officials have descended to figure out the beast. A lot need help finding the means for family support. A lot more need real time training to introduce them into new jobs.

Hopefully the dual intercession would assist families regain their dignity. The strength of the global community begins with the family.

**Vision**

Leadership requires vision and commitment to implement meaningful policies that factually improve the livelihood of simple villagers.

If you're now in elected office, what have you done on a factual basis that improved family wellbeing across the archipelago? If your answer is "not yet, already" then it goes to show your lack of perception of your fiduciary duty!

I will personally research the performance of each elected official to see if he or she isn't humming the dismissive lyrics "make the world go away". It's all a matter of integrity and commitment, isn't it?

**Inadequacy**

What is it that we lack today? Definitely, it is the persistent insufficiency of funds to meet basic needs. It is indicative that invest-

to have a fun a relaxing day on Saipan. Seafaring tradition is a key part of our island's heritage and to the extent that those commercial and historical experiences are made available to our visitors, our reputation and image is built stronger.

It is nice to see that a new boating organization has been formed here on Saipan. It calls for inclusionary access to commercial, pleasure and sport boating communities but I notice most all the members fall into the latter two categories and most

There's no getting around it: This is a shameful situation in a developed, wealthy nation. When poverty equates to lower academic performance, we perpetuate that poverty from one generation to the next. Until we are willing to face that problem and take bold measures against it, the nation's rankings will always be limited.

This is not to let the education system off the hook. One way in which poverty affects educational attainment is that low-income students tend to attend schools with fewer resources and lower expectations. And there are countries where the poorest students fare better than that same group in the United States.

U.S. rankings actually improved somewhat in the new PISA

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



ments has either stagnated or stopped altogether. Nobody's fault but one that requires critical ocular review.

Most Nippon investments are history! I have yet to see financial analysis how much was this economic loss but I heard familiar tune like "que sera". Really?

So what have we manufactured beyond the usual adoption of useless resolutions as a badge of honor boasting irrelevant perception in policymaking? Could we market any of them to encourage revenue generation? Call it "lamañana!"

Indeed, our fate is contingent upon the quality of leadership at the helm. With competency things could move forward easily. Without it, it's like a long rainy day that eases into a snore at the wheels. Eh, you sleepin' braddah?

Up front and center is the hardship nearly 15-thousand employees had to endure in poverty. It's a condition forced upon them as a direct result of the elected elite's obvious negligence and incompetence.

**R&R**

For now, I'd settle in grandpa's chair in the dirty kitchen to see how events unfold rightly or wrongly. If I have to poke your overblown ego then see if you could grow thicker skin for criticism from taxpayers comes with the territory.

If you have doubts of hardship in the livelihood of our people take a cruise around town and make critical ocular review of life in family homes. Most villagers are still staring at their empty wallets and family purses quizzing whatever happened to promises of better days. They had to endure weird sunsets at 4pm quizzing, "Why is this?"

**Success**

Trump Tower in downtown Manhattan, a 58-story building that is home to his money making global firms.

But this isn't the tower I'm looking for other than the Donald's grand success building unsurpassed economic prosperity nationwide. It's unheard of since 1969. Did you get this pal?

It is this success that had me salivating what our future would be like if in fact there's real time economic growth and development here. It simply means more businesses, jobs and higher income. But such isn't the case, is it?

of their boats are docked at the Smiling Cove. Let's hope they reach out successfully to the commercial boaters on whose businesses our tourism hopes lie as those operators are under extreme pressure from the DLNR as they and F&W "close" but charge arms and legs to continue using the broken Outer Cove Marina as a base for their operations. Many of those on the board of the new organization could help bring some pressure to bear if they were so inclined. Please?

results, with students scoring slightly above average among OECD nations in reading and science. But in math, the United States scored well below average for OECD nations.

For various reasons, PISA results aren't the ultimate measure of how well a nation's schools are doing. One example: There's evidence that U.S. students are unmotivated to do well on the test, which has no impact on their grades or their futures. But when it comes to measuring the effects of income inequality, PISA offers a powerful lesson for the United States: If we want a better educated population, we cannot ignore our culpability in allowing so many children to grow up in poverty.

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**TAIWAN**

From Page 12

**Boating**

Boating is an important part of our image as a visitor destination. A picture of Managaha or the lagoon is seldom seen without a boat, which brings to the potential visitor's mind a way for them

**WHY DO**

From Page 12






in that distribution, U.S. average performance appears to be relatively low partly because we have so many more test takers from the bottom of the social class distribution," the study concluded.

A 2016 analysis by the nonprofit organization Turnaround for Children, which studies the effects of various traumas on children, found that in U.S. schools where less than a fourth of students are poor enough qualify for free- and reduced-price lunches, scores are high enough to rank above the top nations.

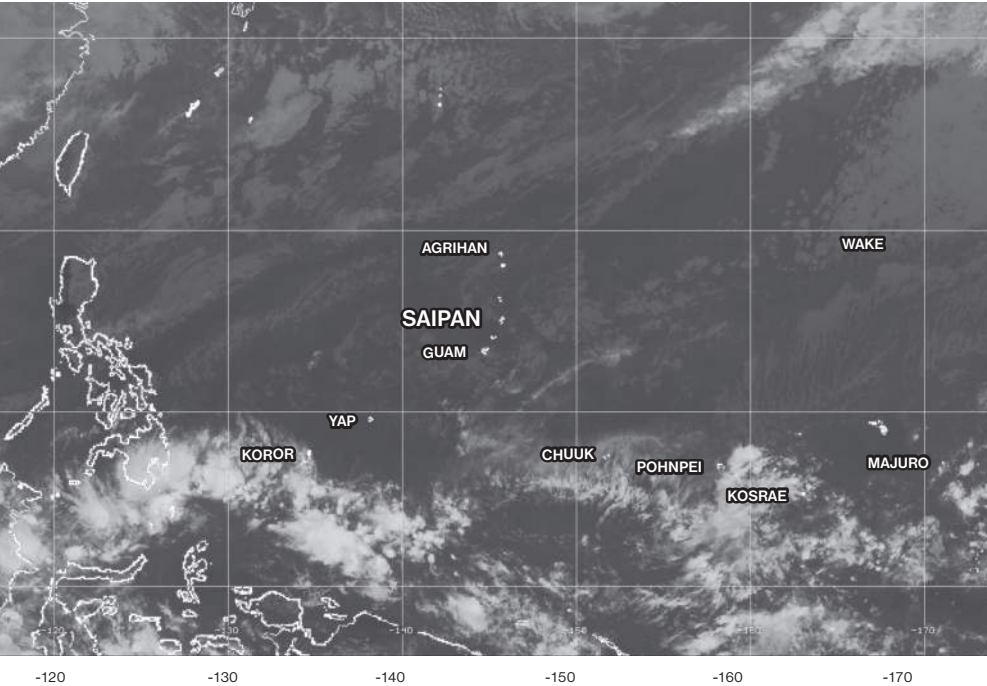


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	75°	88°	75°	80°	70°	80°	70°	80°	70°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 6:58 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are mostly cloudy with moderate to fresh trade winds this morning for the Marianas. Scattered light showers are moving through the Guam coastal waters, but these are expected to decrease after sunrise. Combined seas are between 8 and 9 feet at the buoys, and trending jerkily downward.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	84° / 76°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Windy	66° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 66°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 71°	
London	Shower	52° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 50°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Windy	82° / 57°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°	
New York	Rainy	50° / 46°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 41°	
Paris	Showers	54° / 37°	
Busan	Sunny	52° / 34°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57° / 41°	
Salem	Rainy	68° / 52°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	45° / 21°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	50° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Showers	59° / 51°	



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.09	
06:54 AM	LOW TIDE	0.33	
1:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.55	
8:55 PM	LOW TIDE	0.60	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:43 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	5:59 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:18 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:39 AM	12:53 PM
Sunday	-	1:26 AM	1:30 PM
Monday	-	2:14 AM	2:10 PM
Tuesday	-	3:05 AM	2:53 PM

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA104	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
				SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6	TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA184/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
				UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



## An invitation to 'A Night with the Knights'

Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association invites AlumKnights and community members to the association's annual fundraising banquet, "Night with the Knights."

The school's alumni, referred to as AlumKnights, have been meeting for months to prepare for the event.

The "Night with the Knights" is scheduled for Feb. 1, 2020, in the Magellan at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan from 6pm to 10pm.

"We're very excited about the event and we look forward

to all our fellow AlumKnights having a great time. We take great pride in our island's only Catholic school and are willing to give back to a school that gave us so much," said 1990 AlumKnight and MCS business manager John Blanco.

According to Blanco, this year's "Night with the Knights" will feature a school yearbook montage, raffle prizes, music, dancing, and more.

The event will also include the announcement of the 2020 AlumKnight of the Year and the 2020 Class of the Year. These presentations recognize

and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Mount Carmel School graduates. Criteria for both awards are available on the MCS website, [www.mountcarmelsaipan.com](http://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com).

Tickets for "Night with the Knights" are \$50 per person. AlumKnights interested in purchasing a table for their class and family can contact Priscilla Dela Cruz at [presdelacruz@gmail.com](mailto:presdelacruz@gmail.com).

Tickets are available at the school's Business Office. To reserve a ticket or for more information email [presdelacruz@gmail.com](mailto:presdelacruz@gmail.com). (PR)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### NAP schedules

The Nutrition Assistance Program Office will be distributing benefits and re-certifying households whose case records end with "1." Following are the schedules for the ensuing days:

Date	Day	Case Record Ending with:
Jan. 3, 2020	Friday	"2"
Jan. 6, 2020	Monday	"3"
Jan. 7, 2020	Tuesday	"4"
Jan. 8, 2020	Wednesday	"5"
Jan. 9, 2020	Thursday	"6"
Jan. 10, 2020	Friday	"7"
Jan. 13, 2020	Monday	"8"
Jan. 14, 2020	Tuesday	"9"
Jan. 15, 2020	Wednesday	"0"

For more information, contact the NAP office at 237-2842 or 237-2843 or visit its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nap-cnmi>. (PR)

### Guam advisory on income tax filing

The Department of Revenue and Taxation in Guam is currently preparing to update its programming and processing systems for the 2020 income tax filing season, which is for tax year 2019. DRT will not be accepting individual or corporate income tax returns for tax year 2019 at this time. We will advise at a later time on an official date when tax returns will be accepted. (PR)

### Navy training in Dandan-Malojloj, open ocean, Warning Area 517

**ASAN, Guam**—The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm on Jan. 6-9 in Dandan-Malojloj.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct live-fire training from 7am to 4pm on Jan 6-10 at Warning Area 517.

Additionally, the U.S. Navy will conduct open ocean exercises from 10am to 9pm on Jan. 7-8 at the following coordinates: 13°29'N/144°25'E. The public, fishermen, and boat operators are advised to remain clear within five nautical miles of the training area.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

### Ukulele classes at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for beginner and intermediate ukulele class is ongoing. It is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is \$50. Ukulele classes are held at the public library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and children. Sessions are set to begin on Jan. 7, 2020, every Tuesday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on "First come; first paid." Students must provide their

own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a 3-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver Form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures. For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at 235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. (PR)

### Kumisión I Fino' CHamoru meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'na'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first January monthly meeting on Jan. 9, 2020, Thursday from 12:30pm to 3pm at the Guam Museum conference room, in Hågatña. Call Roland Blas, Kumisión secretary for special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047 or email at [rolandblas1973@gmail.com](mailto:rolandblas1973@gmail.com). (PR)

### Guam PTAC sets federal contracting workshops

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free workshops to the public for January 2020. Workshops run from 9am-10am at the University of Guam in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Admin Building, Margarita Perez & Jaime Tuquero IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131(unless otherwise specified):

■ **Jan. 9: Cybersecurity: Federal Contractor Responsibilities**—Cybersecurity is a national security issue. We will discuss what Federal contractors can do to make sure they are complying with DOD requirements with respect to keeping data protected.

■ **Jan. 16: SBIR/STTR Programs**—The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs encourage small businesses to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. We will explain the programs and show how innovators can get involved.

■ **Jan. 23: Government of Guam Procurement**—The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

■ **Jan. 30: DLA Internet Bid Board System**—The DLA Internet Bid Board System provides the capability to search for, view, and submit secure quotes for DLA supply RFQs, RFPs, and IFBs. The Guam PTAC will guide you through the process of setting up an account and navigating the system.

For Project Management Professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals!

Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>, or call/email Therese at 735-2552/admin@guamptac.com. Walk-ins are welcome. (PR)



Commonwealth Cancer Association  
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

## 2020 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2019 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the representations, election of three (3) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information please contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at [ccamarianas@gmail.com](mailto:ccamarianas@gmail.com)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP  
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

### RFQ20-GOV-027

#### Request for Qualification Statement for Construction Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Mitigation Project

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lieutenant Governor Arnold L. Palacios through the Hazard Mitigation Program, Office of the Governor (collectively, "Commonwealth") and on behalf of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Construction Management (CM) Services for the Water Mitigation Project at Various Well Sites on Saipan, MP.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Scope of Work for the CM is available at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A pre-proposal conference will be conducted on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. ChST at the Governor's Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, at [ldleguerrero@omb.gov.mp](mailto:ldleguerrero@omb.gov.mp) or to fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m. ChST Friday, January 17, 2020.

Statements of professional qualification from interested firms must address, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Overall construction management experience in the Western Pacific Region, and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - (25%)
- Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope - (30%)
- Past performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed construction - (30%)
- Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (15%)
- Fee - (0%)

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, Certificate of Authorization and must be licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI. Firms shall also submit an estimate (range) of CM fees based upon a 12-month project schedule. Fee estimates will assist the HMGP Office with their budget, but will not be considered in the firm evaluation scores.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 and shall not exceed 30 pages.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fee and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualification statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV-027, Construction Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Mitigation Project". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Asencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Friday, January 31, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Friday, January 31, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [amagofna@df.gov.mp](mailto:amagofna@df.gov.mp). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Friday, January 31, 2020, and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be the cause for rejection of a proposal.

#### BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS (To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, IFBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez  
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguin  
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply







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9-12 CT 38#

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5CT

**89¢** LB.



**MANDARIN**

**\$5.49** PKG.



**CABBAGE GREEN** 45#

**79¢** LB.



**BROCCOLI CROWNS**

**\$1.49** LB.



**CARROTS JUMBO LOOSE** 50#

**99¢** LB.



**LIGHTLIFE SMART DOGS**  
12/120Z

**\$4.59** PKG.



**ROTH HAVARTI DILL CHEESE**  
12/60Z

**\$3.49** PKG.



**COLUMBUS SALAME GENOA CHUB**  
GLUTEN FREE 12/80Z

**\$5.99** PKG.



**WILD MIKE'S PEPPERONI PIZZA** 14" 8PK

**\$7.99** PKG.



**POPKOFFS PIROGIES, POTATO & ONION** 8/100Z.

**\$5.99** PKG.



**SIMPLE MILLS ALMOND FLOUR CRACKER** 6/4.250Z.

**\$4.79** PKG.



**OSTER 1.1CF 1000W STAINLESS STEEL MICROWAVE OVEN**

**\$99.95**



**GIBSON - GV PRATO 45PC SILVER SS FLATWARE SET**

**\$15.95**



**DAHDOUL - 5PC COMFORTER SET QUEEN SIZE (JULIET)**

**\$26.95**



**BUSHCUTTER**

**\$99.95.**



**STEP LADDER 3 STEP (3-1)**

**\$17.95.**



**HONG MA FOLDING CHAIR**

**\$16.95**



**TRAMPOLINE 140CM CHILDRENS WITH ENCLOSURE**

**\$69.95**



**FOLDING DRYING RACK**

**\$16.95**



**PLASTIC 7PC SET FOOD CONTAINER (7067-7)**

**\$3.95**



**MEMORY FOAM PILLOW MEDIUM**  
33\*51\*91CM (105-1)

**\$7.95**



**RUBBER DOORMAT LARGE** 90\*150CM (267-276)

**\$15.95**



**DAHDOUL - BERLIN 5FTX8FT AREA RUG**

**\$49.95.**



**CERAMIC MINI TABLE LAMP** (18004/18000)

**\$5.95**



**HOOVER WHOLE HOUSE HIGH CAPACITY PET VACUUM**

**\$149.95**







# GMS visits the Man'amko Center

Green Meadow School's Student Council officers, students, teachers, and administrators visited the Man'amko Center in Garapan last Monday, distributing gifts and singing Christmas carols to its residents.

The visit is part of the GMS STUCO's outreach program and aims to raise awareness among students of the impor-

Green Meadow School's Student Council officers, students, teachers, and administrators pose for a photo with the residents of Man'amko Center in Garapan last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



tance of joining activities that strengthen relationships of families and the community, according to the group's adviser, Davin Feria.

Besides performing Christmas songs for the *man'amko* and giving them gifts, the visitors also did a Bible service.

Jackie Limes, a community development specialist at the center, conveyed the *man'amko*'s gratitude for the outreach.

"We are all royalty, we are all princes and princesses because we are the children of God. On behalf of *man'amko*,

I would like to acknowledge everyone for your efforts for visiting us here," Limes said.

Elijah Umali, an eighth grader, said the visit was a heartwarming experience and that talking to the *man'amko* made him realize he has to treasure his parents more and

everyone else around him.

GMS principal Milagros Songcuan said the school has long been planning to visit the center. She added that this visit will now be part of the school's yearly activities. The GMS STUCO also promised to visit on Valentine's Day. (AP)

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Attorney for Plaintiff

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**ANZ GUAM, INC.,**  
formerly known as  
**CITIZENS SECURITY**  
**BANKS (GUAM), INC.,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**JESUS T. LIZAMA dba**  
**VICTORIA HOTEL,**  
**J&EV ENTERPRISES,**  
**INC., and the**  
**BANK OF GUAM,**

Defendants.

Civil Action  
No. 00-0296 D

(FOURTH AMENDED)  
NOTICE OF AUCTION  
and JUDICIAL SALE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that under and by virtue of the Amended Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on 30th day of January, 2001, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC. ("ANZ"), in the above titled action from Defendants JESUS T. LIZAMA DBA VICTORIA HOTEL AND J&EV ENTERPRISES, INC., as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property filed on February 13, 2013, pursuant to 7 CMC § 4537(e) the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **16th day of January, 2020 at 10 a.m.**, at Victoria Hotel, located on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

PARCELS 1 & 2:

a. LOT 001 D 13, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 1), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

b. LOT 001 D 14, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 2), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

And immediately thereafter, the sale of the following parcel of property:

PARCEL 3:

c. TRACT 21732-9, part of original Tract 21732-R1, AH 140), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2085/84, the original of which was recorded 08 AUG 84 as Document No. 84-1439 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** All the property listed in this notice shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction, without any warranty being given, express or implied, with respect to the title, possession, and encumbrances, to satisfy the amount due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC. on the date of the sale under the Amended Judgment as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property. ANZ GUAM, INC. reserves the right to bid all or part of the amount due at the time of the sale.

3. **Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by the successful bidder. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff, ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC.

4. **Inspection.** Interested bidders may inspect the property at the following times:

Parcels 1 & 2: January 8, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Parcel 3: January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

5. **Change of Terms.** ANZ GUAM, INC., reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

6. **No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 17th day of December 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**MARIANAS**  
**PUBLIC LAND**  
**TRUST,**  
**Plaintiff,**

vs.

**CLARISSA M.**  
**FEJERAN and**  
**WATSON SAM,**  
**Defendants.**

Civil Action  
No. 10-0312

NOTICE OF  
AUCTION and  
JUDICIAL SALE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 15th day of January, 2019, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **27th day of February, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Tract 21988-18, (part of original Tract 21988, AH 623) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2004/84, the original of which was recorded on November 18, 1983, as Documents No. 83-239 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, fax or by e-mail to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 11th day of December, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**RFP NO.: RFP20-GOV/PA-029**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 10, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"LEASE OF BUILDING OR OFFICE SPACE FOR THE OFFICE  
OF THE GOVERNOR – PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)**

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAEC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ**  
**GOVERNORS AUTHORIZED REP.**

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
**DIRECTOR, P&S**

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS  
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
PORT OF SAIPAN BERTH 103 REPAIRS  
PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-17**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for Berth 103 Repairs at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Executive Director's office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) and [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than **Friday, January 24, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**, local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: January 2, 2020

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
MVA-RFP-20-2019**

**Submission Date: January 24, 2020 Time: 3:00 pm**

**Architectural and Engineering Services**

**Submit Sealed RFP to:**

Procurement Office  
Marianas Visitors Authority  
P.O. Box 500861  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is requesting proposals from qualified architectural/engineering firms capable of providing site condition assessments, complete schematic designs, budget reports for approved projects, and preparing the corresponding applications for necessary permits from government agencies. The MVA is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the selection of an architectural/engineering firm to provide architectural/engineering services in connection with its Destination Enhancement projects that MVA may undertake.

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com)

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo  
Managing Director

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce  
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Juana A. Cabrera  
Address: 6490 W. Emile Zola Ave.  
Peoria, AZ 85381  
Email: [juatallig@aol.com](mailto:juatallig@aol.com)  
Tel: (562) 500-1361  
Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE  
MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
DONICIO  
CHARFAUROS  
CABRERA  
Deceased,**

**Civil Action No. 19-0333  
AMENDED NOTICE OF  
HEARING ON PETITION  
FOR LETTERS OF  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
APPOINTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATRIX; and  
AMENDED NOTICE TO THE  
CREDITORS**

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,  
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE  
DONICIO CHARFAUROS CABRERA OR HIS  
ESTATE.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Petitioner, **Juana A. Cabrera, pro se**, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Donicio Charfauros, Decedent.**

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Juana A. Cabrera, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent of her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **Juana A. Cabrera, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2019.  
/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

**Edward and Marina San Nicolas**  
P.O. Box 500102  
Saipan, MP 96950

*pro se*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

**In the Matter Of The  
Adoption Of:  
A.W.C.E.  
Minor Child  
By:  
Edward  
Manibusan  
San Nicolas and  
Marina Debengek  
San Nicolas  
Petitioner(s)**

**CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 19-0484  
NOTICE  
OF HEARING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing January 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before the Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



# Business

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A high-end cosmetics brand in China recently visited Saipan for a team-building activity and reveled in the island-style hospitality that the CNMI is famous for.

Some 30 employees of Beijing-based S-Yue Cosmetics, led by its CEO, Yong Deng, arrived on Saipan last Friday and left Tuesday for a post-Christmas, pre-New Year team-building tour of the island.

The 30-year-old Deng said they thoroughly enjoyed their five-day sojourn in the Western Pacific that started with a day tour of Mangaha Island and included tours of famous historical sites like Last Command Post, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, and the Grotto. They also got to enjoy American

## S-Yue Cosmetics on Saipan for team-building



MARK RABAGO

S-Yue Cosmetics CEO Yong Deng, seated right, poses with staff at the Kanoa Resort lobby.

and Chamorro and Carolinian food during their stay.

"We're really satisfied with our Saipan tour. Saipan is really very beautiful with a lot of great scenery. The sightseeing tour was very excellent," said Deng through an interpreter.

The company chose Saipan for its team-building activity because they were intrigued, he said. "Saipan has a very good promotion on China right now and we want to see for ourselves what Saipan has to offer," he said through the interpreter.

Along with his staff, Deng also brought with him the company's team of videographers and photographers to properly document their team-building activities.

"We shot a lot of videos so we could record our tour of Saipan. It will be shown on S-Yue Cosmetics' website and social media platforms like [Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.]," he added.

Ultimately, Deng hopes the videos will help promote Saipan to their customers, not only in China but the whole world.

Deng's Christmas wish for Saipan is for the islands to continue to grow economically and for the tourism infrastructure to improve and modernize so it can attract more tourists like him and his staff in the future.

The S-Yue Cosmetics staff were billeted at the Kanoa Resort and their tour of Saipan was handled by Century Tours.

S-Yue was established in 2015 and focuses on the high-end skin-care market for Chinese women between 20 and 40 years old. S-Yue is also known for partnership with a number of TV shows in China.

## United increases Guam-Honolulu flights to 8 times-weekly

**GUAM**— United Airlines announced recently that it has added a new week-end flight between Guam (GUM) and Honolulu (HNL) from June 5 through Aug. 15, 2020, to support the strong demands of the upcoming summer peak travel season. That additional frequency, which brings the total number of flights between Guam and Honolulu to eight times-weekly,

will depart Honolulu on Friday and Guam on Saturday. United currently operates a daily flight between the two islands (UA201/200) aboard a Boeing 777-200 aircraft.

In addition to the existing daily GUM-HNL flight, Guam customers will be able to choose from a second weekend flight which will also be operated by a Boeing 777-200 aircraft. The additional flight (UA77) will

depart Honolulu on Friday at 4:45pm and arrive in Guam at 8:25pm on Saturday. The new flight from Guam (UA76) will depart at 5:55pm on Saturday and will arrive in Honolulu at 5:10am the same day. The additional summer flights will add more than 700 seats weekly or more than 8,000 seats between the islands during the summer peak period. Tickets are now avail-

able for purchase.

"An additional 8,000 seats between Guam and Honolulu is exciting news for our customers in the region and for Guam and Hawaii's tourism industries," said Sam Shinohara, United managing director for airport operations for Asia/Pacific. "As Guam's hometown airline, we continue to closely monitor the market to look for growth opportu-

nities. Our customers will have more flight schedule choices for travel to Hawaii and the mainland U.S. during one of the busiest seasons of the year."

In 2019, United is focusing more than ever on its commitment to its customers, looking at every aspect of its business to ensure that the carrier keeps customers' best interests at the heart of its service. **(PR)**



**TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
"Car Rental Concessions"

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-20**

for  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-01**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-02**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of two years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.


The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-20 is **December 20, 2019**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS**  
**FOR**  
**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**COMMUTER TERMINAL ACCESS ROAD PAVING**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Commuter Terminal Access Road Paving Project at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Executive Director's office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than **Friday, December 27, 2019, 5:00 p.m., local time**.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

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/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: December 10, 2019



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

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**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**AIRPORT FIRE STATION ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement, delivery and installation of eight (8) aluminum brand new roll up doors for the bays located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all design, materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve the finished products, along with testing and commissioning in compliance with the items in the scope of work.

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA's Airport Fire Chief, Frederick Pangelinan at telephone number 670-288-0091.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office or via email at [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) or [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) by no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, January 13, 2020**. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers shall submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Delivery and Installation of Eight Roll Up Doors for Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-20". Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

**PROPOSERS SHALL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS DETAILED IN THE SCOPE OF WORK, AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AS DETAILED ABOVE.**

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2019



# Nation

## Year-end violence highlights danger of worshipping

**NEW YORK (AP)**—When a machete-wielding attacker walked into a rabbi's home in Monsey, New York, during Hanukkah and a gunman fired on worshippers at a Texas church 14 hours later, the two congregations in different regions of the country joined a growing list of faith communities that have come under attack in the U.S.

It is a group that crosses denominations and geography and has companions around the world. The frequency of attacks has faith leaders and law enforcement grappling with how to protect people when they are at their most vulnerable.

FBI hate crime statistics show that incidents in churches, synagogues, temples and mosques increased 34.8% between 2014 and 2018, the last year for which FBI data is available.

"For a person bent on hate crime against a particular religion or race, you go to a place where you know a lot of people in that group will be congregating—and vulnerable," said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Boston's Northeastern University. "One place you can go to find people of a certain religion is where they worship." Most congregations, he said, do not have security.

Three of the deadliest attacks on congregation members have occurred since June 2015, when a gunman killed nine people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church



Church and community members, including Matt Pacholczyk, left, and his wife, Faith Pacholczyk, stand outside West Freeway Church of Christ for a candlelight vigil, Monday, Dec. 30, 2019, in White Settlement, Texas. AP

in Charleston, South Carolina, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA TODAY and Northeastern University. The database includes attacks where four or more victims are killed.

However, the database wouldn't include the most recent attacks that have refocused attention on the security vulnerabilities at religious institutions.

The FBI's hate crime high-

lights list a number of crimes, including a Colorado plot to blow up a synagogue, an Oregon man sentenced to federal prison for targeting a Catholic Church and two guilty pleas in the bombing of an Islamic Center in Minnesota where congregants were worshipping in the mosque.

A five-year compilation of AP reports showed the frequency of attacks countrywide.

Recent stories included the

stabbing of an Orthodox Jewish man as he approached the driveway of his synagogue in Monsey in November, as well as a Las Vegas incident where a suspect torched a Buddhist temple, then shot toward at least one monk fleeing the fire.

The data is definitive enough that the FBI invited faith leaders to its Washington, D.C., headquarters last June to discuss how to protect themselves and their congregants

from bias-based attacks.

Mark Whitlock Jr., pastor of Reid Temple AME Church in Glenn Dale, Maryland, said his own staff and volunteers have met five times in the last month to discuss safety.

"Our first responsibility is to make sure our congregants have faith in God and second, that they are safe," Whitlock said. "We must not create an environment of fear but we also must not fail to recognize

things do happen and evil is present."

Reid has a paid security staff of about 20 who wear uniforms and are armed. There are volunteers as well, made up of former and current federal agents, law enforcement officers and military who also provide security, Whitlock said.

Even with the protection, he is watchful. On Sunday, he was in the pulpit and saw the security force reacting to something. They explained later it was a stranger they wanted to identify.

"When you're looking at thousands of people and you see your security force walking around, your mind begins to wonder," he said.

The new spate of anti-Semitic attacks has added to the sense of urgency that's been felt by Jewish security experts since the 2018 massacre at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, where 11 people were killed.

"The greatest adversary we truly face is not an external threat, it's a sense of denial," said Michael Masters, national director of the Secure Community Network. It was formed by leading Jewish organizations in 2004 to coordinate a response to security threats.

"The conversation prior to Pittsburgh was whether safety and security was necessary," Masters said. "Now it's a question of how do we effectuate that — there's now a reality that these events can happen anywhere."

## As more women run for office, child care remains a hurdle

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—When Kimberly Dudik ran for her fourth term in the Montana House, state officials told her she could not use campaign money to pay for child care for her four young children.

She is now running for attorney general and is trying to visit a big chunk of the sprawling state, spending hours on the road. That means she needs even more help picking up her kids at school and day care when she's away and her husband has a late night at the office.

"It just seems behind the times," Dudik, whose family is living off her husband's income and savings from her work as a lawyer. "When it was a man campaigning, the woman was traditionally the one to stay home and take care of the children. There is not someone home just taking care of the kids."

Experts predict a large num-

ber of women will again run for office in 2020 like they did in 2018, and child care remains a hurdle for many of them.

A congressional candidate in New York successfully petitioned the Federal Election Commission in 2018 to allow campaign money to help cover child care costs. But it applies only to those running for federal office.

That leaves women in many states who are running for the Legislature, statewide positions like attorney general or local offices to find another way to pay for child care as they campaign, which often requires night and weekend work.

Only six states have laws specifically allowing campaign money to be used for child care. Five states are considering it. In most states, including Montana, the law is silent on the issue and up to interpretation by agencies or boards.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Seven shot at bar in West Virginia on New Year's Day

**HUNTINGTON, W. Va.** (AP)—Seven people were injured in a shooting at a bar in West Virginia early New Year's Day, police said. The shooting happened early Wednesday at the Kulture Hookah Bar in Huntington, interim Huntington Police Chief Ray Cornwell said in a news release. The statement said several people were found shot inside and outside of the bar. Cornwell said initial information suggested the shooting involved a dispute between individuals. No arrests have been made. According to WOWK-TV, more than a dozen shell casings were found outside the bar and in a parking lot across the street. About 50 people were inside the bar when police arrived. The injured were taken to a hospital for treatment. Authorities did not specify the nature of their

injuries. "Any incident of this nature in the downtown or in any of our neighborhoods is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," Huntington Mayor Steve Williams said in a statement. "We are waiting for law enforcement investigators to provide more complete information about this incident before we determine the next steps."

#### 3 mountain lions killed after feeding on human remains

**TUCSON, Ariz.** (AP)—Three mountain lions found feeding on human remains near a popular Tucson hiking trail have been killed, Arizona authorities said Wednesday. They were not suspected of killing the person, but were determined to be a danger to the public because they showed no fear of officers trying to remove the remains, the Arizona Game and Fish Department said in a statement, according to the Arizo-

na Daily Star. The area in the Coronado National Forest was closed for a day while officials attempted unsuccessfully to trap the mountain lions. The medical examiner will work to identify the name and cause of death for the person found Tuesday morning off the Pima Canyon Trail. The trail at the base of Mount Lemmon was reopened on Wednesday, ahead of a planned Jan. 14 reopening, after authorities decided there was no danger to the public.

#### Coast Guard says 5 missing after crab boat sinks in Alaska

**JUNEAU, Alaska** (AP)—Five people were missing and two were rescued after a 130-foot crab fishing vessel from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, sank Tuesday night, the U.S. Coast Guard said. Authorities said the vessel's last known position was 170 miles (274 kilometers) southwest of Air Station Kodiak. The Scandies

Rose sank at approximately 10 p.m. Tuesday with seven crew members aboard, the Coast Guard said. It received a mayday distress call and immediately commenced a rescue operation. Helicopter and airplane crews from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak were involved in the search. A helicopter crew arrived on scene and hoisted two survivors from a life raft. Their condition was not immediately known. A Coast Guard cutter was diverted from the Bering Sea and was expected to arrive on scene Wednesday evening. "We are conducting an extensive search in a 300-square mile area to locate the five missing persons from the Scandies Rose," said Lt. Wade Arnold, command duty officer at 17th District command center. The Coast Guard reported wind in excess of 40 miles (64 kph), 15 feet to 20 feet (4.5-6 meters) seas and one mile (1.61 kilometer) visibility.



# Asia

## North Korea's Kim touts strategic weapon amid stall in talks

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Expressing deep frustration over stalled nuclear talks, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned of unspecified “shocking” action and that his country will soon reveal a new “strategic weapon” to the world as its bolsters its nuclear deterrent in face of “gangster-like” U.S. pressure.

Kim also said North Korea was no longer obligated to maintain a self-imposed suspension on the testing of nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles, which President Donald Trump has touted as a major diplomatic accomplishment. But Kim gave no clear indication that a resumption of such tests was impending and appeared to leave the door open for eventual negotiations.

Kim has used the diplomatic stalemate to expand his military capabilities by inten-

sifying tests of shorter-range weapons. His arsenal is now estimated to include 40-50 nuclear bombs and various delivery systems, including solid-fuel missiles designed to beat missile-defense systems and developmental ICBMs potentially capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

Kim has also strengthened his negotiating position, moving the diplomacy closer to an arms reduction negotiation between nuclear states rather than talks that would culminate in a unilateral surrender of the weapons he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

Lee Sang-min, spokesman for South Korea's Unification Ministry, said North Korea carrying out its threat to showcase a new strategic weapon would be unhelpful for diplomacy.

Strategic weapons usually

refer to nuclear-capable delivery systems such as ICBMs, but North Korea otherwise has been vague about what new arms it would display. It announced in December that it performed two “crucial” tests at its long-range rocket launch site that would further strengthen its nuclear deterrent.

Kim's comments published in state media Wednesday were made at a key, four-day meeting

of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Committee as talks between Washington and Pyongyang have faltered over disagreements on disarmament steps and the removal of sanctions.

Some experts say North Korea, which has always been sensitive about electoral changes in U.S. government, will avoid serious negotiations in the coming months as it watches how Trump's

impending impeachment trial over his dealings with Ukraine affects U.S. presidential elections in November.

Kim may instead seek to strengthen his leverage by promoting a united front with Beijing and Moscow, Pyongyang's traditional supporters, which seek to establish themselves as major stakeholders in North Korean diplomacy. Both have called for the U.N. Secu-

rity Council to consider easing sanctions on the North to spur progress in nuclear negotiations.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Secretary-General António Guterres “very much hopes that the tests will not resume,” citing existing Security Council resolutions. “Non-proliferation remains a fundamental pillar of global nuclear security and must be preserved,” the spokesman said.

## Some flee while others restock before Australia's wildfires grow

**PERTH, Australia** (AP)—Thousands of tourists fled Australia's wildfire-ravaged eastern coast Thursday ahead of worsening conditions as the military started to evacuate people trapped on the shore further south.

Cooler weather since Tuesday has aided firefighting and allowed people to replenish supplies. Vehicles formed long lines at gas stations and supermarkets, and traffic was gridlocked as highways reopened. But fire conditions were expected to deteriorate Saturday as high temperatures and strong winds return.

“There is every potential that the conditions on Saturday will be as bad or worse than we saw (on Tuesday),” New South Wales Rural Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said.

Authorities said 381 homes had been destroyed on the New South Wales southern coast this week and at least eight people have died this week in the state and neighboring Victoria, Australia's two most-populous states, where more than 200 fires are currently burning.

New South Wales authorities in the morning ordered tourists to leave a 250-kilometer (155-mile) zone along the picturesque south coast. State Transport Minister Andrew Constance said it is the “largest mass relocation of people out of the region that

we've ever seen.”

In Victoria, where 68 homes have burned this week, the military was helping thousands of people who fled to the shore as a wildfire threatened their homes Tuesday in the coastal town of Mallacoota. Food, water, fuel and medical expertise were being delivered and about 500 people were going to be evacuated from the town by a naval ship.

“We think around 3,000 tourists and 1,000 locals are there. Not all of those will want to leave, not all can get on the vessel at one time,” Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The early and devastating start to Australia's summer wildfires has led authorities to rate this season the worst on record. About 5 million hectares (12.35 million acres) of land have burned, with at least 17 people dead and more than 1,300 homes destroyed.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the crisis was likely to last for months. “It (fires) will continue to go on until we can get some decent rain that can deal with some of the fires that have been burning for many, many months,” Morrison told reporters on Thursday.

Smoke from the wildfires caused the air quality in the national capital, Canberra, to be the world's worst and was blowing into New Zealand.



A man watches a TV screen showing a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020.

## Taiwan's Tsai defends Anti-Infiltration Law aimed at China

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—China has been relentless in its attempts to influence and infiltrate Taiwan's politics and society but the island's new ban on political interference should have no effect on normal exchanges between the sides, Taiwan's president said in her New Year's address.

The Anti-Subversion Law that obtained a third and final approval in Taiwan's legislature Wednesday aims to prevent illegal campaign contributions, staging of political events, the spread of misinformation and other acts by foreigners that could affect Taiwan's elections or the work of government. It was denounced by the opposition and by China's Cabinet as overly broad and an attack of exchanges between the sides, but President Tsai Ing-wen defended it as having no effect on normal interactions.

The law's passage “won't have any effect on freedom or violate human rights and won't influence normal com-

mercial exchanges. It will simply provide greater guarantees from Taiwan's freedom and democracy,” Tsai said.

Given China's similar actions in other countries, Taiwan's failure to prevent interference could give the impression it is untroubled by Beijing's actions, Tsai said.

“Under Chinese pressure and with the constant Chinese infiltration and interference, we really needed this law to make Taiwan a safer place and to prevent social divisions arising from infiltration and interference,” she said.

Tsai cited the continuing protests in Hong Kong as proof its governing framework, which Beijing proposes for Taiwan, is untenable.

“China's goal is very clear and that is to compel Taiwan to make concessions on the question of sovereignty under duress,” Tsai said. “Yet in Hong Kong, where ‘one country, two systems’ is in effect, the situation has just gotten worse and worse. Democracy

and authoritarianism ... cannot co-exist in the same country.”

Tsai said Taiwan would emphasize in the coming year that China's policies cause instability in the Taiwan Strait, and that Taiwan would not exchange sovereignty for short-term economic gains. China has repeatedly offered benefits to Taiwanese who choose to work and study on the mainland and hundreds of thousands are believed to have taken advantage of the lower costs and greater opportunities in the Chinese market.

That poses the prospect of a “brain drain” of talented Taiwanese to the advantage of China's economy while furthering Beijing's goal of breaking down resistance to the possibility of future political unification between the sides. Recent surveys show around 80 percent of Taiwanese reject the idea of political union with China, with most backing the island's current status of de facto independence.

Tsai is favored to win a sec-

ond term during elections for president and the legislature on Jan. 11.

China cut contacts with Tsai's government shortly after her 2016 election and her potential reelection raises the possibility Beijing will intensify its campaign of economic, military and diplomatic pressure over her refusal to agree to Beijing's claim that Taiwan is a piece of Chinese territory that must be reclaimed. China threatens to use force to annex the island if peaceful means fail.

In Beijing, the head of the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, Liu Jieyi, warned of “serious damage” to Taiwanese interests if the island's government did not fall in line with China's demands.

“The bright prospect for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations needs the joint efforts by compatriots on both sides across the Strait and needs Taiwan compatriots to correctly grasp (the situation),” Liu said in a statement issued by his office.



## World

## Attack on US Embassy in Iraq shows stark choices for Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—The attack on the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad by Iran-supported militiamen Tuesday is a stark demonstration that Iran can still strike at American interests despite President Donald Trump's economic pressure campaign. Trump said Iran would be held "fully responsible" for the attack, but it was unclear whether that meant military retaliation.

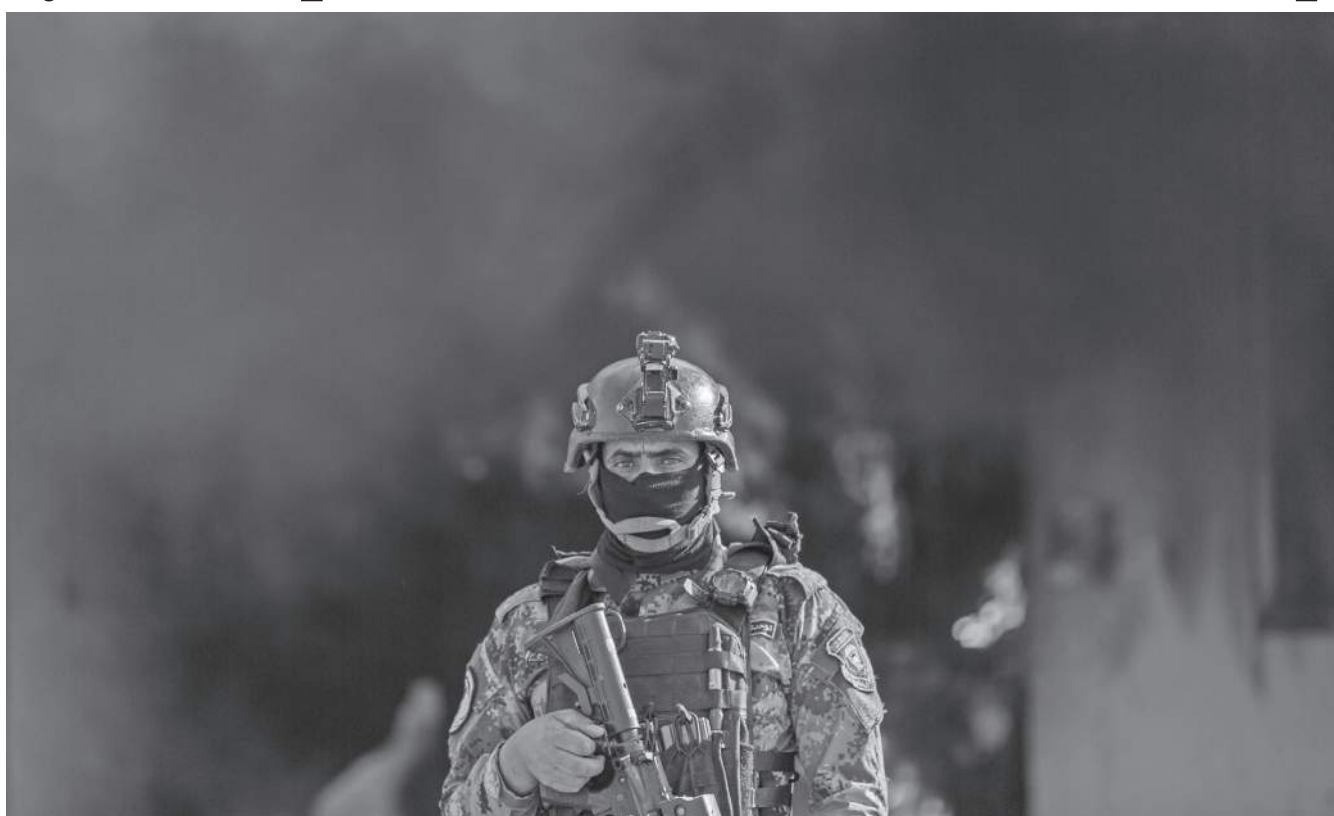
"They will pay a very BIG PRICE! This is not a Warning, it is a Threat. Happy New Year!" Trump tweeted later in the afternoon. He also thanked top Iraqi government leaders for their "rapid response upon request."

Defense Secretary Mark Esper later announced that "in response to recent events" in Iraq, and at Trump's direction,

he authorized the immediate deployment of an infantry battalion of about 750 soldiers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to the Middle East. He did not specify their destination, but a U.S. official familiar with the decision said they will go to Kuwait.

Esper said additional soldiers from the 82nd Airborne's quick-deployment brigade, known officially as its Immediate Response Force, are prepared to deploy over the next several days. The U.S. official, who provided unreleased details on condition of anonymity, said the full brigade of about 4,000 soldiers may deploy.

"This deployment is an appropriate and precautionary action taken in response to



An Iraqi soldier stands guard in front of smoke rising from a fire set by pro-Iranian militiamen and their supporters in the U.S. embassy compound, Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020.

AP

## U.S. Embassy attacked by protesters

Dozens of Iraqi Shiite militiamen and their supporters broke into the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad, angered over deadly U.S. airstrikes targeting the Iran-backed militia.



increased threat levels against U.S. personnel and facilities, such as we witnessed in Baghdad today," Esper said in a written statement.

The 750 soldiers deploying immediately are in addition to 14,000 U.S. troops who have deployed to the Gulf region since May in response to concerns about Iranian aggression, including its alleged sabotage of commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf.

Tuesday's breach of the

embassy compound in Baghdad, which caused no known U.S. casualties or evacuations, revealed growing strains between Washington and Baghdad, raising questions about the future of the U.S. military mission there. The U.S. has about 5,200 troops in Iraq, mainly to train Iraqi forces and help them combat Islamic State extremists.

The breach followed American airstrikes Sunday that killed 25 fighters of an Iran-

backed militia in Iraq, the Kataeb Hezbollah. The U.S. said those strikes were in retaliation for last week's killing of an American contractor and the wounding of American and Iraqi troops in a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base that the U.S. blamed on the militia. The American strikes angered the Iraqi government, which called them an unjustified violation of its sovereignty.

Trump blamed Iran for the embassy breach and called on

Iraq to protect the diplomatic mission even as the U.S. reinforced the compound with Marines from Kuwait.

"Iran killed an American contractor, wounding many," he tweeted from his estate in Florida. "We strongly responded, and always will. Now Iran is orchestrating an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Iraq. They will be held fully responsible. In addition, we expect Iraq to use its forces to protect the Embassy, and so notified!"

## Climate change, Brexit divorce: EU faces challenges in 2020

BRUSSELS (AP)—December served up a warning of the massive challenges ahead for the European Union.

Freak storms wreaked havoc on parts of southern Europe, showing how the impact of extreme weather will drive the bloc's thinking and climate change policy over the coming years. The EU has already said it wants to spend effort and money to remain the global driver of measures to fight climate change.

The United States also threatened sanctions against companies working on a gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, again showing that the trans-Atlantic alliance between EU nations and the U.S. stands for less and less in the age of power politics.

And across the Channel, a rare December election in Britain brought Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson a solid majority to back up his efforts to "get Brexit done." As things stand, Britain on Jan. 31 is scheduled to become the first nation ever to leave the EU.

All these challenges will

need a strong coordinated response from the EU's soon-to-be 27 nations if they want to live up to their goal of having a bigger global impact.

"Europe must raise its voice more strongly in the world," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in her New Year's message.

Yet as time goes by, such European messages have become ever more plaintive and homegrown issues demand attention.

EU headquarters in Brussels, looking ahead to 2020, is now beset by tireless bickering over a fraction of the 1% of gross national income that the nations are supposed to spend on the EU during the bloc's 2021-2027 budget period. As populism in Europe has turned the EU and its perceived elites into a pet target, national leaders are wary of being seen by voters as too generous toward Brussels.

EU Parliament President David Sassoli stressed the need for a budget deal "as quickly as possible in order to avoid delays in implementing the Union's policies and programs."

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Israel PM seeks immunity, buying time until after vote

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday he would seek immunity from corruption charges, likely delaying any trial until after March elections, when he hopes to have a majority coalition that will shield him from prosecution. Netanyahu was indicted in November on charges of accepting bribes, fraud and breach of trust. After failing to assemble a governing majority following back-to-back elections last year, he will get a third shot at remaining in office in March. Wednesday's announcement essentially turns the upcoming election into a referendum on whether Netanyahu should be granted immunity and remain in office, or step down and stand trial. A recent poll indicated that a majority of Israelis oppose giving him immunity. In a nationally televised address, Netanyahu repeated his assertion that he is the victim of an unfair conspiracy, lashing out at prosecutors, the me-

dia and his political enemies. Claiming credit for a series of economic and security achievements on his watch, he said he would seek to invoke the law that would protect him from prosecution as long as he remains in office.

## At least 16 dead, 5 wounded in central Mexico prison riot

MEXICO CITY (AP)—At least 16 inmates in a central Mexico prison were killed and five more were wounded in a riot that closed out a violent 2019 for the country, authorities said. Zacatecas state security secretary Ismael Camberos Hernández told local press that authorities confiscated four guns that they believe were introduced to the Cieneguillas state prison during prison visits Tuesday. He said the prison had been searched for weapons on Saturday and Sunday and no guns were found. The melee broke out around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday and the prison was brought under control by 5 p.m., according to a statement from the state security

agency. Fifteen of the victims died at the prison and one died later at a hospital. One prisoner was detained with a gun still in his possession and the other three were found inside the prison, the statement said. Camberos said not all of the victims died from gunshot wounds. Some were stabbed and others beaten with objects. No guards or police were wounded, Camberos said. He did not offer a possible motive, but such killings frequently involve score settling between rival cartel members or a battle for control of the prison's illicit business.

## Pope Francis equates violence against women to profaning God

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis is pinning much of his hopes for a more peaceful world in the new year on women, saying violence against them is akin to profaning God and calling for them to be increasingly involved in making major decisions. In his homily Wednesday in St. Peter's Basilica, Francis decried the "many times wom-

en's bodies are sacrificed on the profane altar of advertisements, of profit, of pornography." He also lamented that women are "continually offended, beaten, raped, forced into prostitution" or forced to have abortions. The Catholic church forbids abortion. Francis didn't mention if under his watch things might change in how women are treated in the Catholic church. According to Vatican teaching, women can't become priests. And the top job—the papacy—has been strictly for males. He contended that if we want a better world in the new year, we should treat women with dignity. Francis urged that women become "fully associated" with decision-making in order to make the world more united and at peace. "And if we want a better world, that is a house of peace and not a courtyard of war, may the dignity of every woman be at the heart of it," Francis said. "Women are givers and mediators of peace, and should be fully associated with decision-making processes."



# Off The Wall

## Headless torso found in Idaho cave identified as bootlegger

**BOISE, Idaho** (AP)—The headless torso that was found in a remote Idaho cave 40 years ago has finally been identified as belonging to an outlaw who killed his wife with an ax and was last seen after escaping from jail in 1916.

Clark County Sheriff Bart May said Tuesday that the cold case will remain open because investigators don't yet know who killed Joseph Henry Loveless. Still, they were able to notify one of Loveless' surviving relatives,

an 87-year-old grandson, of his fate.

For investigators, the mystery began when a family hunting for arrowheads in Buffalo Cave near Dubois, Idaho, on Aug. 26, 1979, found his remains wrapped in burlap and buried in a shallow grave. Few additional clues turned up until March 30, 1991, when a girl exploring the same cave system found a mummified hand. Investigators began excavating, finding an arm and two legs nearby, also wrapped in burlap.

Local authorities turned to Idaho State University for help, and over the subsequent years anthropology students and staffers from ISU worked on the case. Experts from the Smithsonian Institution and the FBI were recruited to assist. No other remains were ever found, however, and without the head, identifying the John Doe of Buffalo Cave seemed unlikely.

The scientists were able to determine the slain man's hair was reddish brown, that he was of European descent,



This undated composite sketch provided by Anthony Redgrave, courtesy of Lee Bingham Redgrave, shows Joseph Henry Loveless.

Utah with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and his likely grandfather was a polygamist with four wives. That meant Doe's cousins and other relatives numbered in the hundreds, said Bingham Redgrave.

Investigators also weren't sure what time period the remains came from, further broadening the field of possibilities.

"He ended up having a lot of matches that were first cousins three times removed, which is very unusual in this type of scenario," Bingham Redgrave said. "One by one we eliminated certain candidates and kept coming back to him."

They used news articles, gravestone information and other records to try to find proof of life for all of the DNA candidates, she said. They noticed a few things about Joseph Henry Loveless's life didn't seem to add up. His gravestone was actually a cenotaph, a stone with his name on it but no body buried underneath.

Loveless's second wife, Agnes Octavia Caldwell Loveless, had been murdered on May 5, 1916, by a man named Walt Cairns, according to news articles and a wanted poster created by local law enforcement at the time.

But according to another local news article on Agnes' fu-

neral, one of her children said that it was his father in jail for the murder, not Walt Cairns. The child also remarked that his dad would be escaping soon because he never stayed in jail long.

The DNA Doe Project team eventually unraveled the truth: Joseph Henry Loveless was born Dec. 3, 1870, in the Utah Territory to Mormon pioneers. He married twice—his first wife Harriett Jane Savage divorced him for "abandonment," according to Salt Lake City court records—and became a bootlegger, counterfeiter and general outlaw in Idaho.

Loveless used a variety of aliases during his criminal career, including Walt Cairns, Charles Smith and other variations of his given and phony names. He was also notorious for escaping custody, Bingham Redgrave said, sawing through jail bars with a blade he kept in his shoe and once managing to stop a moving train that he was being transported on to flee law enforcement.

Investigators believe he died shortly after he escaped from the St. Anthony jail on May 18, 1916, where he was being held for Agnes' murder.

"It's blown everyone's minds," Bingham Redgrave said of the investigation. "The really cool thing, though, is that his wanted poster from his last escape is described as wearing the same clothing that he was found in, so that leads us to put his death date at likely 1916."

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Police: Woman submitted dog urine during drug screening

**PINEVILLE, Ky.** (AP)—A Kentucky woman gave her probation officer a dog urine sample during a drug screening, police said. Julie Miller, 40, of Arjay, was arrested Monday on a charge of tampering with physical evidence, the Pineville Police Department said in a release on its Facebook page. She also was charged with a parole violation and trafficking in a controlled substance. Miller admitted she tried to use the dog urine as her own sample given to officers at the Bell County Probation and Parole Office during a regular probation visit, the statement said. Miller pleaded guilty in Bell County Circuit Court in November to a charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance. Miller was being held in the Bell County Detention Center. It wasn't immediately clear whether she had an attorney to comment on her behalf.

#### 2020 starts on frigid note with polar bear plunges

**NEW YORK** (AP)—2020 began in frigid fanfare for hundreds of people who splashed through the Atlantic Ocean during the annual Coney Island Polar Bear Club Plunge. Swimmers wearing Santa hats and other costume braved 40-degree temperatures (4 degrees Celsius) to partake in the New York City tradition. The weather was chillier than last year, when the mercury rose unseasonably high into the upper 50s (13 to 15 Celsius). The event dates to 1903 and raises money for various charities. Polar bear plunges were also held in such locales as North Beach, Maryland; Charlotte-town, Prince Edward Island; and Perth, Ontario.

#### Police: Man crashes after live streaming while driving

**GROTON, Conn.** (AP)—A man who was live streaming while driving over 100 mph (160 kph) crashed his car in Connecticut, according to state police. Connecticut State Police posted the driver's video of the crash on Monday. Kenneth Hoffer, 23, of Middletown, was using his phone to record himself driving over the Gold Star Memorial Bridge Saturday morning, officials said. He was reportedly driving with a suspended license. A trooper followed Hoffer as he sped onto an exit, where he drove through a guardrail and rolled over. Hoffer's video shows him filming the road ahead of him and his speedometer before losing control on the off-ramp and dropping his phone. At the time of the crash, Hoffer was free on a \$35,000 bond from an October arrest and in possession of more than one ounce of marijuana. He was detained and taken to Lawrence and Memorial Hospital with minor injuries, police said. Hoffer has a criminal record that dates to 2014. He was issued a misdemeanor summons for reckless driving, driving with a suspended license, driving without insurance and possession of marijuana. The case is not listed in court records, and it's unclear if he has an attorney to speak for him.

#### Kiss them goodbye: Hershey is retiring fleet of Kissmobiles

**HERSHEY, Pa.** (AP)—The Hershey Co. will soon retire its vehicles that are shaped like its Hershey's Kisses. The Hershey Kissmobiles, which are each made up of three massive Kisses candies, have traveled across the country since 1997. The

chocolate company has confirmed that the 26-foot-long vehicles won't return in 2020. The company decided to pull the aging Kissmobiles out of safety concerns for employees and the public, Hershey Co. spokesman Jeff Beckman said. It has also become more difficult to find replacement parts for the custom vehicles. One of the Kissmobiles will be available for public viewing at the AACA Museum in Hershey.

#### Big red buoy missing for 2 years beached in Florida

**NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—A big red navigation buoy that bounced along Atlantic waves for two years has beached in Florida, where it's drawing attention. Crowds of spectators streamed to New Smyrna Beach over the weekend for a close up view and some pictures with the navigational marker that some described as "the size of a truck," news outlets reported. The beacon came from South Carolina and has been displaced since 2017, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Dickinson, spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville. "This one was from Sector Charleston," Dickinson told The Daytona Beach News-Journal. "We're going to try to get it back up there." Charleston is more than 300 miles (483 kilometers) north of New Smyrna Beach. The Coast Guard plans to bring in a crane sometime this week to remove the buoy. Officials told news outlets the move will depend on several factors, including the weather. The buoy is painted bright red with the number eight painted in white on multiple sides. Buoys are usually chained to a large piece of concrete that sits on the ocean floor. It's unclear how the beacon got loose.

that he may have been around 40 years old when he died, and that his body had been there for at least six months and possibly as long as 10 or more years. They weren't able to tell what killed the man, though they could determine that his body was dismembered by a variety of sharp tools, perhaps to make it easier for his killer to hide the remains.

Earlier this year ISU and Clark County authorities asked the DNA Doe Project for help. The non-profit organization uses DNA data to identify John and Jane Does in hopes of returning their remains to their families.

Experts from Othram, a technology company focused on forensic DNA sequencing, analyzed a sample taken from the remains. Then Lee Bingham Redgrave, a forensic genealogist with DNA Doe Project, worked with her colleagues to build a "genealogical tree."

It was huge. The Buffalo Cave John Doe was descended from pioneers who came to

## Happy 2020: Server at Michigan restaurant gets \$2,020 tip

**ALPENA, Mich.** (AP)—The restaurant bill was \$23. But the tip at a small-town restaurant in Michigan was much larger: \$2,020.

"Things like this don't happen to people like me," server Danielle Franzoni told The Alpena News.

Franzoni, 31, got the tip while working Sunday at Thunder Bay River Restaurant in Alpena. The credit card receipt said "Happy New Year. 2020 Tip Challenge."

Franzoni, a single mother, couldn't believe the number, but her manager assured her the tip was legitimate.

She said she was living in a homeless shelter a year ago. Franzoni plans to use the money to reinstate her driver's license and build savings.

"They don't know nothing about my story. They don't know where I've come from. They don't know how hard it's been," Franzoni said of the cou-



In this Dec. 30, 2019 photo, server Danielle Franzoni holds a receipt from a customer with a \$2,020 tip included at Thunder Bay River Restaurant in Alpena, Mich.

ple who left the tip. "They're really just doing this out of the kindness of their heart."

Franzoni later went to a res-

taurant and left a \$20.20 tip.

"That was my pay-it-forward," she said, smiling. "I couldn't do the other one."



# Science & Technology

## BEWARE OF THE SMART DEVICE

# Ways to stay private and safe

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Did someone invite a spy into your home over the holidays? Maybe so, if a friend or family member gave you a voice-controlled speaker or some other smart device.

It's easy to forget, but everything from internet-connected speakers with voice assistants such as Amazon's Alexa to television sets with built-in Netflix can be always listening—and sometimes watching, too. As with almost all new technology, installing such devices means balancing privacy risks with the conveniences they offer.

The research firm IDC estimates worldwide shipments of 815 million smart speakers, security cameras and other devices in 2019, up 23% from 2018. Many of the sales are for gifts.

You could sidestep the risks altogether by returning the devices right away. But if you decide to keep them—and the artificial intelligence behind them—there are a few things you can do to minimize their eavesdropping potential.

### THE SPEAKERS LISTEN ... AND WATCH

Smart speakers such as Amazon's Echo and Google Home let you check weather and appointments with simple voice commands. Fancier versions come with cameras and screens.

Many of these devices listen constantly for commands and connect to corporate servers to carry them out. Typically, they will ignore private chatter and transmit sound recordings only when you trigger the device, such as by pressing a button or speaking a command phrase like "OK Google." Some gadgets also have a mute button to disable the microphones completely.

But there's no easy way for consumers to verify those safeguards. In one case, the Alexa assistant in an Echo device



In this May 9, 2018, file photo a second generation Echo that controls the blinds as well as televisions and lighting at an Amazon Experience Centers model home in Dallas, Texas. AP

misheard background conversation as a command to send the chatter to an acquaintance—and so it did.

One more catch: Voice commands sent over the internet are typically stored indefinitely and may include conversations in the background. They can be sought in lawsuits and investigations.

Reputable companies let you review and delete your voice history, Amazon now lets you request automatic deletions after three or 18 months—but you need to set that up, and there's no option to keep Amazon from saving your command history at all.

Until recently, tech companies allowed employees and contractors to review the voice interactions for quality control—and some of those details leaked. Following a backlash, many companies are at least making it clearer and easier to opt out of human review. Pay attention to your choices.

If you have kids, set up a passcode for shopping if your speaker allows it. Otherwise, it can be child's play for a kid to order toys and other goodies through Alexa.

As for those screen models, many also have cameras for video chats. When you're not using the device, consider turning it around to face the wall,

especially in the bedroom and other private settings. Or stick a bandage or some tape over the camera. It shouldn't be recording, but why tempt fate?

### SECURITY WITH SECURITY VIDEO

Online security cameras let you check in on your pets or kids when you're not home. Amazon's Ring doorbell lets you check who's at the door without getting up.

Here's the rub: If you can view video on an app, it's possible that a skilled hacker can, too.

When you use the same password at multiple services, a hacker stealing your password from one place can try it on the camera service, too. So don't reuse password. When available, enable two-factor authentication, which requires you to enter a temporary code sent as a text to ensure it's you.

Again, you might want to turn the camera to face the wall when you're home. It's a pain, though, and if you forget to turn it back when you leave, it defeats the purpose of having a security camera.

### ARE SMART LOCKS SMART?

Smart locks let you unlock doors with an app, so you can let in guests even when you're not home. Burglars might try

to hack the system, though it's often easier for them to just break a window.

As a precaution, disable any capabilities to unlock doors through a smart speaker voice command, especially if you have prankster kids—or teens who might want to sneak someone in.

Though digital keys can be convenient for letting in guests and contractors, they can also leave a digital trail. In a child-custody dispute, for instance, your ex might subpoena the records to learn that you've been staying out late on school nights. If you rent and create a guest key that's used daily, the landlord might suspect an unauthorized occupant.

### ABOUT THOSE TVs

Many smart TVs and TV streaming devices come with mics for voice-activated playback controls and video search. That means having audio snippets transmitted over the internet. The same warnings for smart speakers apply here.

There's a simple fix if you aren't using the internet features on your smart TV: Just don't connect the TV to your Wi-Fi in the first place. Of course, this won't work if you're not using a separate gadget for streaming video.

### TOYS THAT TALK

Kids might get a kick out of dolls and other toys that talk back. But if the toy is connected to the internet, pay attention to how much control it's giving parents and whether it's letting kids connect to the outside world. You can check online to see if other parents or consumer groups have identified problems.

And be sure to install the latest apps and other software updates, as they may come with fixes for flaws that can otherwise be exploited by hackers.

## TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

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## How to simplify PC photo management

**Q** My many photos are being stored in many different places and I'd like to simplify the situation. The photos on my Windows 10 PC are synced with Microsoft OneDrive (currently full), Google Drive (currently full) and Dropbox (not sure how full it is.)

In addition, there are multiple copies of some photos, and the Picasa program I used to manage pictures is no longer available. How can I consolidate all these photos in one place, and manage them?

**A** There isn't any software that will consolidate all your photos from three different online services. But there are other ways to simplify the way you manage photos.

Based on what you have described, your online photos are merely copies of what's on your PC. The multiple copies of some photos are a result of using three different online storage services.

In the future, you should store photos in two places—your PC and a backup location. (You need to keep backups in case your PC's hard drive fails. Like all devices with moving parts, it will eventually wear out.) You have two backup choices:

- Buy local storage, such as a large-capacity flash drive (a 128-gigabyte drive costs \$12 to \$20) or an external hard drive (\$45 for 1 terabyte of storage.) Both plug into your PC's USB ports.

- Buy additional online storage. You have used up your free 15 gigs of storage on Google Drive and your free 5 gigabytes on Microsoft OneDrive. But for a continuing charge of \$2 a month, you can get 100 gigabytes on either Google Drive or OneDrive.

To see how much of your 2 gigabytes of free storage are left on Dropbox, right-click the box-shaped icon in your PC's toolbar. In the resulting menu, click the gear-shaped icon at top right. Additional Dropbox storage costs \$10 a month for 2 terabytes.

Once you have settled on a photo backup strategy, turn off the storage methods you don't want to use. Note that even if you turn off OneDrive, Google Drive or Dropbox, the photos you have stored for free on those services will remain there indefinitely unless you delete them.

While Picasa is gone, there are other photo management programs available, some free, some for-pay (see [tinyurl.com/y6ech7be](http://tinyurl.com/y6ech7be)).

**Q** I have a laptop with Windows 7 that I'm planning to upgrade to Windows 10. I found a deal online that offers a Windows 10 software key for \$12.50, a lot less than Microsoft charges. Is this legitimate?

**A** It would be risky, because it's hard to say if a cheap software key is legitimate.

For the benefit of other readers, the price of Windows 10 isn't the software (you can download that for free), but rather the cost of the software "key" that activates it. Microsoft sells a key to "Windows 10 Home" for \$139. But online resellers offer Windows 10 software key for less: around \$30 from reseller websites, or about \$10 from individuals.

While some discount keys are legitimate (they often come from a gray market, where companies dump surplus keys), others are illegal (they were bought using stolen credit cards or were used by hackers to activate multiple copies of Windows.) Microsoft eventually deactivates the illegal keys, making them unusable.

## Global air crash deaths fall by more than half in 2019

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**—The number of deaths in major air crashes around the globe fell by more than half in 2019, according to a report by an aviation consulting firm.

The To70 consultancy said Wednesday that 257 people died in eight fatal accidents in 2019. That compares to 534 deaths in 13 fatal accidents in 2018.

The 2019 death toll rose in late December after a Bek Air Fokker 100 crashed Friday on takeoff in Kazakhstan, killing

12 people. The worst crash of 2019 involved an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX plane that crashed March 10, killing 157 people.

The report said fatal accidents in 2018 and 2019 that led to the grounding of Boeing's 737 MAX raised questions about how aviation authorities approve aviation designs derived from older ones, and about how much pilot training is needed on new systems.

The group said it expects the 737 MAX to eventually

gain permission to fly again in 2020.

The report said the fatal accident rate for large planes in commercial air transport fell to 0.18 fatal accidents per million flights in 2019 from 0.30 accidents per million flights in 2018. That means there was one fatal accident for every 5.58 million flights.

The firm's annual compilation of accident statistics stressed that aviation needs to keep its focus on the basics of having well-designed and

well-constructed aircraft flown by well-trained crews.

Last year may have seen fewer deaths but did not equal the historic low of 2017, which saw only two fatal accidents, involving regional turboprops, that resulted in the loss of 13 lives.

This report is based on crashes involving larger aircraft used for most commercial passenger flights. It excludes accidents involving small planes, military flights, cargo flights and helicopters.



# Life & Style

## Bobbi Kristina Brown's ex-partner Nick Gordon dies at 30

ATLANTA (AP)—Nick Gordon, who was found liable in the death of his ex-partner Bobbi Kristina Brown, has died. He was 30.

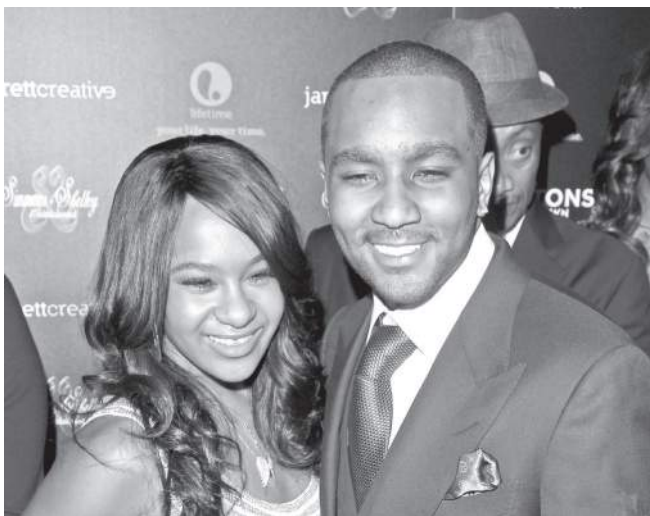
Gordon's attorney Joe S. Habachy confirmed his client's death in a statement Wednesday to The Associated Press. The Atlanta attorney did not give a cause of death or say where it occurred.

Gordon's death comes nearly five years after Brown, the daughter of singers Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown, was found face-down and un-

responsive in a bathtub in January 2015. The 22-year-old died after six months in a coma.

Investigators with the medical examiner's office were not able to determine exactly how Bobbi Kristina Brown died. An autopsy showed that she had morphine, cocaine, alcohol and prescription drugs in her body, but the medical examiner couldn't determine if she killed herself, if someone else killed her or if her death was accidental.

Her family blamed Gordon, accusing him in the lawsuit of



In this Oct. 22, 2012, file photo, Bobbi Kristina Brown and Nick Gordon attend the premiere party for "The Houstons On Our Own" at the Tribeca Grand hotel in New York. <sup>AP</sup>

giving her a "toxic cocktail" before putting her face-down in the water.

Gordon was never charged in the case, but he was found responsible in a wrongful death lawsuit. An Atlanta judge ordered him to pay \$36 million to Brown's estate.

Houston brought Gordon into her household as

an orphan at the age of 12, raising him and her daughter after divorcing Bobby Brown in 2007.

Gordon wore a large tattoo of Houston's face on his arm and called the singer "mom," but the music superstar never fully adopted him or included him in her will. Houston died in 2012 after she drowned in a bathtub. Coroner's officials ruled Houston's death accidental and said heart disease and cocaine were contributing factors.

After Houston's death, Gordon and Bobbi Kristina went public with their romance.

## Kisses, cheers, fireworks welcome 2020 in Times Square

NEW YORK (AP)—Couples kissed. Others cheered and waved balloons as fireworks burst into the night sky and confetti fell to welcome the start of 2020 in New York City's Times Square.

In one of the globe's most-watched New Year's Eve spectacles, the crowd counted down the last seconds of 2019 as a luminescent crystal ball descended down a pole. Throngs of people cheered and sang along to the X Ambassadors' soul-stirring rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine" just before midnight.

About 3,000 pounds (1,360 kilograms) of confetti showered the sea of attendees, many of whom were also

briefly rained on earlier in the evening as they waited in security pens for performances by stars including rap-pop star Post Malone, K-pop group BTS, country singer Sam Hunt and singer-songwriter Alanis Morissette.

The frenzied moment of celebration came after many hours of waiting for much of the crowd.

Eric and Aileen Sanchez-Himes brought their son and nephew from Framingham, Massachusetts, to experience what they consider a "bucket list item." Eric packed granola bars and water in his coat in case they got hungry. They arrived at 10:30 a.m.

"I grew up in New York, in

Brooklyn and the Bronx and I've never done this and this was the first time for us and what better year than 2020 to do this," Aileen said.

Mathieu Plesotsky, 25, visiting from Hesse, Germany, said he wanted to be a part of the spectacle after watching it for years on TV. He arrived in Times Square at 1 p.m. with his girlfriend and bopped along to the performers while waiting for the ball to drop.

"We've just stayed, stand, tried not to pee, danced to the Village People," he said.

Ever since the NYPD tightened security and began cracking down on public drinking years ago, Times Square on New Year's Eve has been an

endurance contest as much as a raucous celebration.

Many people arrive before noon to get a spot close to the action. Alcohol is banned. Spectators enter through a security screening gauntlet to enter pens they cannot leave, including to use the bathroom, if they hope to return.

The weather can be brutal.

When revelers rang in 2018, it was only 10 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 12 Celsius). For the dawn of 2019, rain poured throughout the evening, leaving puddles on the performance stages.

The weather seemed perfect Tuesday, until it wasn't. Rain, which wasn't in the forecast, briefly drenched the crowd just before 8:30 p.m.

assessed by its conservation team and the museum remained open.

The 1944 painting depicts photographer Dora Maar in a semi-abstract style wearing a hat and green clothes.

## Man charged after Picasso painting damaged in London gallery

LONDON (AP)—A 20-year-old man is being held in custody pending his next court hearing after being charged with damaging a Picasso painting at the Tate Modern gallery in London.

London police said Tuesday that Shakeel Ryan Massey of northwest London has been charged with criminal damage. He appeared at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court on Monday.

Police said the attack on the artwork happened Saturday. Police did not specify the painting but British media said it was "Bust Of A Woman."

The Tate Modern said the damaged artwork was being

## History of put-downs causes broken trust between in-laws

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been happily married to my darling husband for 20 years. The problem is his sister.

When we first met, she asked my husband if I was "for real" because I'm very outgoing and affectionate. In the early years, and until about six years ago, she would berate me with abusive criticism. In most instances, her comments were inaccurate. If I tried to overlook her actions and have a good relationship, she would soon find something else to criticize.

I am normally an "it's history" kind of person when it comes to confrontations and forget them quickly. Thankfully her abuse has finally stopped. But I'm now having trust issues because every time in the past when I let my guard down to mend the relationship, she'd lash out and put me down again. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

WARY IN TEXAS

**DEAR WARY:** One would think that during the time your sister-in-law was sniping at you, your "darling" husband would have stepped in and told his sister to put her knives away. After suffering through 14 years of her emotional battery, it's no wonder you have trust issues where she's concerned.

Intelligent person that you are, it's likely you always will have them, so stop blaming yourself for it. Continue being

the outgoing and affectionate person you always have been, and keep your guard up because that's what healthy people have to do when dealing with someone like her.

**DEAR ABBY:** I love my wonderful neighbors of 28 years. They are 10 years younger than my parents. They have been like a second set of parents to me. My concern is for their health. They are in their 60s and 70s, but neither one goes to the doctor.

The wife went 20-plus years ago and decided never to return after they prescribed diabetes and blood pressure medication for her. More recently, she can no longer leave the house because she has injured her arthritic knee so badly. She refuses to get it checked and claims it will heal. (She diagnosed herself via Dr. Google.) Her intelligent adult daughter is aware of all of this.

I know this is a choice people make, but at this point I'm sure it's just anxiety that is keeping her from getting the medical help she needs. She's missing her garden, her grandchildren and grocery shopping, so I'm sure she doesn't want to spend the rest of her life like this. Her husband has no influence either and is picking up what she no longer can do. I have tried encouraging her to seek advice, but haven't pushed her so hard as to push her away. What should I do?

SCARED FOR THEM IN MASSACHUSETTS

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR SCARED:** If anyone could do anything, it would have to be the woman's husband and her daughter. I assume you have pointed out to your neighbor that with medical help she could heal more quickly, and also that there is something called preventive medicine that can help people avoid becoming seriously ill. Because you have talked until you are blue in the face and still haven't been able to get through, my advice is to love her while you have her.

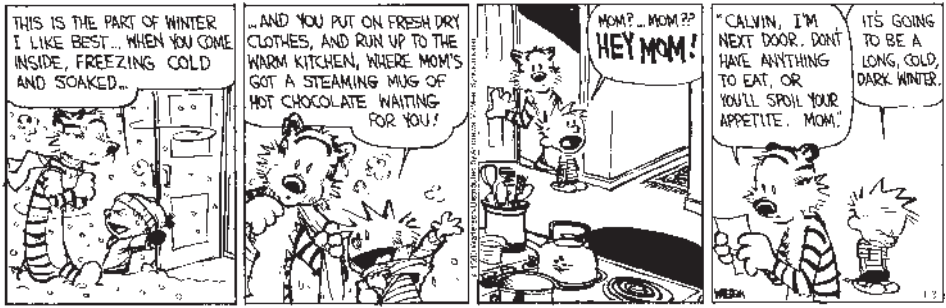
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



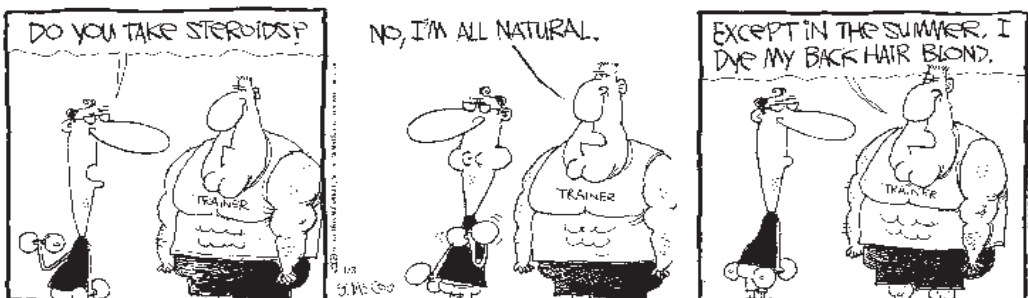
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Bond rating  
4 Mater lead-in  
8 Hourglass fill  
12 Have  
13 Mama — Elliot  
14 Modern taxi rival  
15 Like some boots or socks  
17 Gilpin of "Frasier"  
18 Trucker with a handle  
19 Man of morals?  
20 Fussess  
22 Shortened wd.  
24 Japanese noodle  
25 Quad-strengthening exercise  
29 Command to Rover  
30 Gabriel, for one  
31 Noon, on a sundial  
32 Seriously embroiled

**DOWN**

1 Fine, to NASA  
3 Bristle  
3 Personal account  
4 Liniment targets  
5 Hideaway  
6 Flavor enhancer, for short  
7 Fireplace residue  
8 "Excel-lent!"  
9 Fortas and Lincoln  
10 Sleuth Wolfe  
11 Plumbing problem  
16 Black, in verse  
19 First victim  
20 Walrus tooth  
21 Thor's father  
22 Wrath  
23 Pager sound  
25 Recognized  
26 Current  
27 Evening, in an ad  
28 Conked out  
30 Comediar Sandler  
33 Come into view  
34 Pt. of a sentence  
36 Encounters  
37 Pace  
38 Shoppe description  
39 Cannes milk  
40 Campus bigwig  
42 Col. Sanders' chain  
43 Prefix with natal  
44 Old Olds-mobile  
45 Crucial

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 1-3**

**45 Crucial**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Eli Manning, 39; Danica McKellar, 45; Mel Gibson, 64; Victoria Principal, 70.

**Happy Birthday:** Keep your life simple, straightforward and within your comfort zone. Refuse to get drawn into other people's melodrama or situations that will stand between you and what you want to accomplish this year. Expand your mind, use your experience as a reference and don't be afraid to try something you've never done. Choose self-improvement over trying to change someone. Your numbers are 7, 12, 22, 27, 32, 40, 43.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Handle people carefully. Someone will be taking notes and eager to spread rumors regarding what you did or didn't do. Leave nothing to chance, finish what you start and observe who is watching you. Do your best, and be your best. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Expand your knowledge and your interests. What you come up with will be the stepping-stone to something that can help you get ahead professionally. Consider your motives as well as the motives of others. Don't share personal information. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Get charged up and accomplish what you set out to do. A personal improvement you make will lead to possibilities that can contribute to your status or reputation. A celebration or surprise will require planning. Romance is in the stars. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Be careful not to upset someone you need on your team. Listen, make adjustments and follow

through with your plans. Make a difference, and be part of the solution, not the problem. Handle legal and financial matters and contracts on your own. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** If someone makes a fuss, do your best to calm the situation using incentives and making adjustments that will help keep the peace. A physical challenge will help ease stress as well as being conducive to finding solutions. Romance is featured. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Don't lose sight of your goal. What you accomplish and the change you put in place will make a lasting impression on someone you would like to please. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll get positive results. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Evaluate a situation that appears to be unstable. Keep your emotions out of the equation to avoid making a hasty decision. Time is on your side as long as you refuse to let anyone bully you. Choose romance and socializing over discord. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Refuse to let what other people do trouble you. Put your time and energy toward the projects and pursuits that will help you improve your life. Traveling, communicating and choosing like-minded buddies are encouraged. Protect against injury. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Spend time at home. Go over personal papers, fix up your surroundings or kick back with someone you love. Don't let a change someone makes disturb you. Let go of unnecessary baggage, regrets and unsavory connections. \*\*\*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Listen to criticism, consider what you want to do and make the adjustments that suit you. A lifestyle change will give you a new perspective as you move forward and try new things. Personal growth is favored. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take a deep breath, and prepare to move forward with your plans. Use experience and knowledge to help you navigate your way through any conflict you face. Put your energy where it counts, and spend time with someone you love. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Balance will make life easier. By both giving and taking, you'll be able to bring about the changes that will encourage better relationships with people who share your enthusiasm as well as your aspirations. Promote your beliefs and dreams. \*\*\*

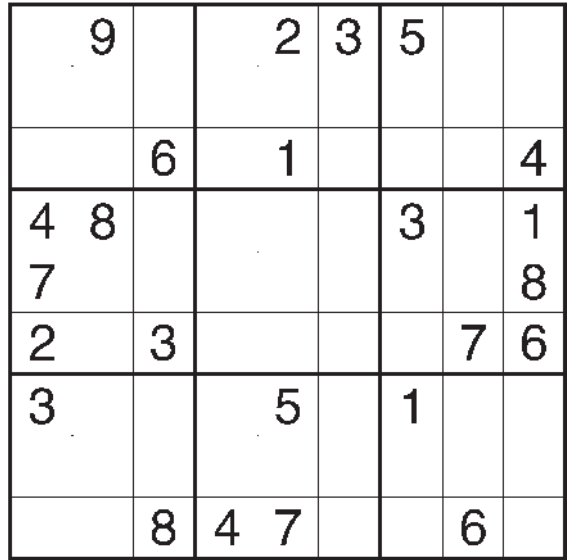
**Birthday Baby:** You are charming, unique and convincing. You are dedicated and persistent.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

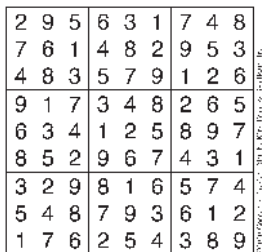


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAND-WASHING IS NECESSARY

Solution: 9 letters

H E B U R C S T A E P E R T C  
E Y Z Y L W N T A E M I S O I  
A E G E T F A C T O N P U U L  
L S A I E I I T H S O G H C B  
T N C E E N L N E N H P O H U  
H O M A S N S I G R R L L H P  
S I R D P O E E C E D O S O R  
T T L O E U N H V A R I S O D  
G A E O T P M E C T F S U L E  
A T W R S C N P N T U T A I F  
R I O I I T O O S R I C T O E  
D N T S A L C D F N I K L S N  
E A T I N G E A E D A E R P S  
N S S N B A C T E R I A S H E  
C O O K G E R M S L A M I N A

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1/3

Animals, Ash, Bacteria, Clean, Cold, Control, Cook, Cough, Defense, Doctor, Door, Eating, Eyes, Facility, Fact, Fingers, Fish, Garden, Germs, Health, Home, Hygiene, Kitchen, Meat, Medical, Nails, Nose, Prevent, Public, Pumps, Repeat, Rinse, Routine, Sanitation, Scrub, Sink, Sneeze, Soap, Soil, Sponge, Spread, Steps, Sterile, Surface, Time, Touch, Towel, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Tubing

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com) or call 1-800-642-6483.

STUMPED?

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the public that Janet Buere Sacramento is no longer connected with RNV Construction since November 26, 2019.

Any transaction made or entered by her after the above-mentioned date will no longer be honored by the company.

For any questions or concerns, please call our office at (670) 235-8778.

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT  
ONE (1) MARKETING MANAGER PACIFIC REGION**

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Must be well informed primarily about the CNMI market trends, Guam and Micronesia, identify shifts in the marketplace, and identify valuable emerging markets within the region; Manages the overall daily operations/management of CNMI operations to include Sales, HR and Operations Management; including compliance with local labor laws; monitoring workflow efficiencies, maintaining strong employee performance, controlling costs, providing training and direction to all front-line staff to provide excellent customer service; Develops and implements strategic marketing plans for the organization in a regional level, and stays abreast of changes in the marketing environment to best serve the objectives of the organization and adjust plans accordingly; Periodic travel and/or remotely manage the marketing division of the company which includes the Guam, CNMI, Palau and Federated States of Micronesia; Researches competitor pricing and develops pricing policies and recommends appropriate sales strategies to maximize profit potential for the organization; Recommends strategies to integrate into local regional marketing plans, and to evaluate productiveness and marketing initiatives ROI; Maintain and provide strength to company's brand position in assigned regional marketing areas; Head development and execution process of ethnic and other main focused marketing plans to reach vital customer segments; Accurately forecasting future sales and forming sales plans to adapt to constant shifts in the marketplace; Seeking out major clients, maintains and expands customer base, and forming working relationships with the premier vendors within the industry; Serving as a business representative at Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Bureau meetings, major industry events, conferences, travel fairs, and expositions; Forming sales strategies to keep the company competitive and innovative, as well as developing specific plans to ensure growth both long and short-term; Managing and providing training for front line sales staff in order to maximize sales revenue and meet or exceed corporate goals; Forecasting annual, quarterly and monthly sales goals; Responsible for recruiting, selecting, orienting, training, assigning, scheduling, coaching, counseling, and disciplining employees; communicating job expectations; planning, monitoring; enforcing company policies and procedures; Achieves regional sales operational objectives by contributing regional sales information and recommendations to strategic plans and reviews; preparing and completing action plans; implementing quality and customer-service standards; Responsible for senior level decision making and both day to day management and strategic direction of the organization; Strong working knowledge of local employment law issues and the ability to apply these to a variety of situations using a pragmatic and common-sense approach; able to problem solve both operational and strategic issues through a pragmatic and commercially sound approach; Ability to recognize the value and responsibility of working in a team, actively supports and develops team members, quick to identify and problem solve any issues.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Bachelor's Degree from a 4-year college or University with a business major in Marketing;
- Five (5) years experience in Marketing; and
- Be able to travel periodically to the following areas to attend meetings when needed:  
Territory of Guam, Republic of Palau & Pohnpei (FAS).

**Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:**

Simon Odoca, Director of Operations & Sales  
Venture Transportation LLC dba Budget Car Rental of Micronesia  
P.O. Box 8468, Tamuning, Guam 96931 or send to:  
PMB 699, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950  
Contact nos. 671-647-1442 or 671-682-0332; or  
E-mail: sdoca@budgetmicronesia.com

**WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2019**  
**Opening date: December 20, 2019      Closing date: January 10, 2020**

Positions: (1) Electrician (Saipan)  
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)  
(2) Custodial-I (Saipan)  
(1) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 10, 2020.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at loma.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION  
PLAZA CORPORATION**

To all creditors of and persons having claims against Plaza Corporation:

Please take notice that Articles of Dissolution of the said corporation have been filed with the Registrar of Corporations, and are effective immediately. All persons having claims against the corporation must lodge them in writing, mailed to Plaza Corporation, care of The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. All claims against the corporation will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five (5) years after the publication of this Notice.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

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**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

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WHATZIT Solution: Reading between the lines

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CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

<b>ADS</b>	
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Knicks spoil Carmelo's return to MSG



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—The shots were falling. The crowd was roaring. Everything was set up for this to be Carmelo Anthony's night.

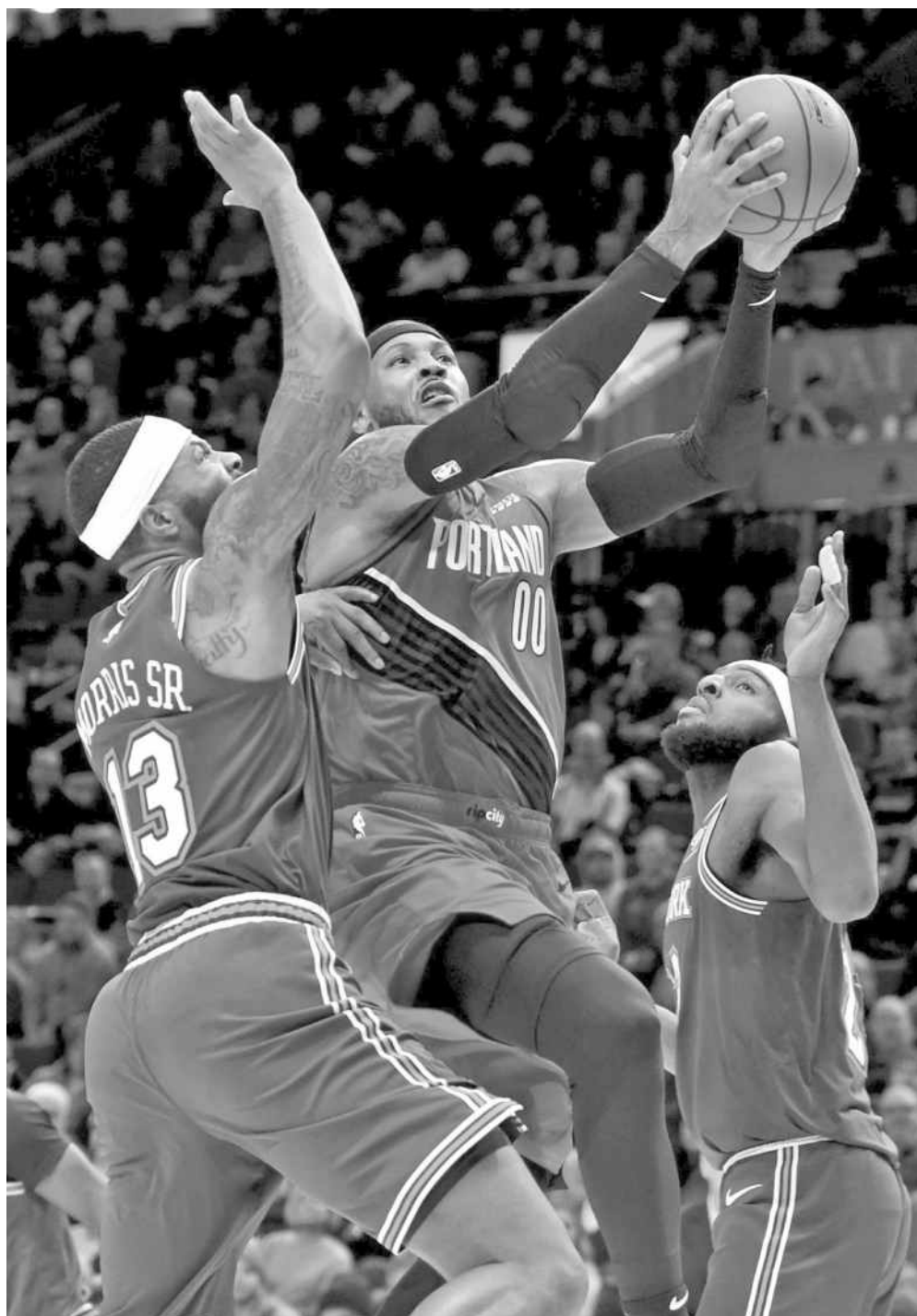
Then he sat down to start the fourth quarter, and the Knicks had ruined those hopes by the time he got back up.

Mitchell Robinson made all 11 shots and had 22 points, Julius Randle added 22 points and 13 rebounds, and New York spoiled Anthony's strong return to Madison Square Garden by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 117-93 on Wednesday for its season-high third straight victory.

Anthony scored 26 points, his most since returning to the NBA in November after a year absence, and was cheered before and during the game at the arena where he played 6 1/2 seasons. But he was on the bench at the start of the Knicks' 14-0 run early in the fourth quarter that broke open the game and sent the Trail Blazers to their fifth straight loss.

"Overall, the experience and just being back today I think is the most important thing," Anthony said. "The loss is something that we'll get to the bottom of. We'll figure it out. It happens. You have to take your hat off to those guys, they played extremely well tonight. The way that they shot the ball, the way that they were locked in, they deserved to win tonight."

Reggie Bullock made two 3-pointers during the spurt and scored 11 points in his Knicks debut. He signed with the team during the summer but hadn't played because of a herniated disk.



"It's just great to be back out there seeing the ball go through the hoop and playing out there with my teammates," Bullock said. "I signed here for a reason, and I knew what the guys that we

signed were capable of doing. I'm glad to be out there playing with them."

Damian Lillard was held to 11 points on 5-for-20 shooting after scoring 30 or more in the previous three games. The

All-Star guard did have 10 rebounds and eight assists, but missed his first six 3-pointers before making his only one of the game.

That was on the final shot of the third quarter, cutting New

York's lead to 83-77, and he then joined Anthony on the bench. The Blazers were still down just six after consecutive baskets by CJ McCollum, but Bullock made his two 3s and Frank Ntilikina and Bobby Portis hit one apiece in between. Portis then finished the run with two free throws to push the lead to 101-81.

## Lakers 117, Suns 107

In Los Angeles, LeBron James had his eighth triple-double of the season, Anthony Davis had 26 points and 11 rebounds, and the West-leading Lakers opened the new year with a win over the Phoenix Suns.

James finished with 31 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists in the Lakers' third straight victory that appeared well in hand by the end of a dominant first quarter. He had double-figure points and assists by halftime.

The Suns rallied in the fourth, getting within seven points after trailing by 36 earlier in the game. That forced the Lakers' starters back in, and James steadied them with eight points to close out the win.

## Bucks 106, Timberwolves 104

In Milwaukee, the Bucks were happy to get another win though they know they didn't play up to their standards.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 17 rebounds, and the Bucks held off a strong challenge from short-handed Minnesota in a over the Timberwolves.

"Not paying our best but still finding a way to win is good," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "But this isn't the formula."

Antetokounmpo got his 30th double-double in 33 games this season and Khris Middleton added 13 points despite shooting 5 for 18 as league-best Milwaukee hit just 42.6% of its shots overall and only 9 of 36 from 3-point range. Brook Lopez scored 11 points and Eric Bledsoe had 10.

"We missed a lot of good shots and came out a little slow," Middleton said.

Shabazz Napier had 22 points to lead Minnesota, and Gorgui Deng scored 15, Josh Okogie added 12 and Jarret Culver 10.

## Magic 122, Wizards 101

Orlando forward Jonathan Isaac collided with the Washington Wizards' Bradley Beal in the early minutes of Wednesday's game. Isaac left the floor on a stretcher, and was quickly ruled out of the game with a hyperextended left knee.

Yet, even with one of their key players out, the Magic, who entered with the NBA's worst offense, overcame Isaac's absence and rolled past the Wizards.

D.J. Augustin scored a season-high 25 points and Nikola Vucevic added 20 points and 12 rebounds, as Orlando snapped a four-game road losing streak.

David Stern once predicted that the NBA would have a division in Europe within 10 years. A few years later, he said it again. And a few years after that, he said it yet again.

It never happened.

That was a rarity in Stern's life and career. Usually, when he wanted something, he got it.

He wanted the league to grow under his watch, and it did. He wanted the game to grow internationally, and it did. He wanted players to dress more professionally, and the pregame show in locker rooms now is akin to a fashion show. He was a basketball tour de force, doing it in suits and wing-tips instead of jerseys and sneakers, and unquestionably is why the league is so successful today.

Stern died Wednesday, nearly three weeks after a brain hemorrhage made the end inevitable. He was the

## Stern made the NBA what it is today

NBA's commissioner for exactly 30 years—from Feb. 1, 1984, through Feb. 1, 2014—and turned a league that was having its biggest games shown on tape delay into the multibillion-dollar global juggernaut that it is today.

"We all sit here and we have these jobs and we all owe a great deal and a great debt to him for making all of our lives better," Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas said. "He truly was, and is, the father of what the NBA is now."

Thomas said those words on NBA TV—which, without Stern, probably wouldn't exist.

Stern began building the bridge that connected the NBA and China, which has been a mutually beneficial relationship financially and likely will remain that way once the rift

that was born this fall over political differences calms down. He took the league from 23 to 30 teams. He championed the birth of the WNBA.

"For those of us who have made a life from this league, words don't do justice to what he meant," NBA spokesman Tim Frank wrote on his personal Twitter account. "He was unique, brilliant, tough but maybe most importantly he stood by what he believed every time no matter the personal cost."

Stern never sought popularity. He seemed to embrace conflict. When a tough decision had to be made—vetoing the trade of Chris Paul, for example—he welcomed it and accepted the repercussions from whoever was going to complain. He also was

the calm in the eye of storms, such as leading the support for Magic Johnson after the Los Angeles Lakers great retired in 1991 after being diagnosed with HIV.

"When he first took over, the league was not as popular as it is now," Hall of Famer Grant Hill said. "There were challenges. There were problems. And I think him coming in ... his vision, his leadership, he fought for the game of basketball. He fought for this league. He had a vision that this league could really transcend, that it could reach all people."

He was right, and his words carried enormous weight.

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra remembers when the Portland Trail Blazers—his father, Jon Spoelstra, was a member of that team's front office—

drafted Arvydas Sabonis and Drazen Petrovic, international talents who might not have ever gotten to the NBA if not for Stern.

Jon Spoelstra had a million of those stories for his son, telling him that Stern was "a brilliant visionary." So when Erik Spoelstra became coach of the Heat in 2008, he found himself in a meeting with Stern and still acknowledges being intimidated.

"But I went up to him and told him that, and just to let him know that there are a lot of people that really benefited from his vision and his leadership," Spoelstra said.

Stern also had the gift of being simultaneously gruff and gracious.

He was acerbic and often acted like the smartest guy in

the room, usually because he was the smartest guy in the room. He ruled with an iron fist. If you worked for the NBA, you worked for him and you were going to do things his way.

That was his cover, anyway.

He tried to hide that he had an enormous heart.

When an NBA employee's family member was diagnosed with brain cancer, Stern got word of it and had that relative in front of experts at renowned Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center within hours after making a couple of calls. When staffers would accompany Stern on business trips, he'd act like a flight attendant, completely ignoring the fact that the private plane actually had a flight attendant. He'd ask his travel companions if they wanted anything, over and over. He morphed from boss to host on those trips.



# Pats focus on stopping Titans' big play potential



**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—With a few exceptions, the Patriots' defense demoralized opposing offenses this season by limiting big plays and opportunities in the red zone.

It will face a Titans offense in Saturday's wild-card round that was the best in the league in both categories.

Tennessee comes into the postseason with one of the NFL's hottest offenses. Quarterback Ryan Tannehill led the NFL with a career-best 117.5 passer rating. He joined Sammy Baugh and Joe Montana as the only quarterbacks to complete at least 70% of their passes (70.3%) and average at least 9 yards per pass attempt (9.6).

The Titans also forced defenses to keep tabs on running back Derrick Henry, who had a league-best 1,540 rushing yards to pace the league's third-ranked rushing offense (138.9 yards per game).

The efficiency of Tannehill and Henry helped open up the field for a unit that was tops in the league with nine plays that went for 50 yards or more and scored touchdowns on a league-best 75.6% of its trips inside the 20-yard line.

Tennessee only had 45 drives in the red zone this season, ranking 25th in the league. But when the Titans get there, Patriots coach Bill Belichick said they showed an ability to get into the end zone in multiple ways.



AP  
New England Patriots running back Rex Burkhead breaks loose from an attempted tackle to run for a touchdown against the Buffalo Bills in the second half of an NFL football game, Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

"They do a good job of getting the ball to everybody and they have, obviously, the best running game in the league," Belichick said. "When you combine those two things and the quarterback—the quarterback can move down there, too. But, honestly, they've skipped over the red area a lot."

The Patriots have allowed only three passing plays of more than 50 yards this season, but safety Devin McCourty said players such as Titans rookie receiver A.J. Brown have shown a unique ability to turn plays such as reverses or short catches into big gains.

"Obviously, they've got a lot of guys that can beat you vertical. But you watch them, it's a quick slant or a slim post and A.J. Brown catches it, now he breaks a tackle and now you're trying to catch a guy that you're not going to catch," McCourty said.

Brown has four touchdown catches of at least 50 yards this season, joining Isaac Curtis (five in 1973), Willie Gault (four in 1983) and Hall of Famer Randy Moss (five in 1998) as the only rookies with at least four such TDs since the merger.

In addition to players such as Brown and Henry, McCourty said they'll also have to account for tight end Jon-

nu Smith, who had a 57-yard run against Houston in Week 15 and caught a 41-yard TD pass in Week 16 against New Orleans.

"A lot of it is going to come down to obviously, you can't let the ball behind you," McCourty said. "You can't let your guys run by you."

Limiting Brown's ability to stretch the field will be one of the Patriots' top priorities this week, with the primarily coverage responsibility almost certainly falling to cornerback Stephon Gilmore.

Gilmore was New England's top defender in the secondary this season, leading the team with six interceptions and 20 pass breakups. He is also looking to bounce back after struggling against Miami receiver DeVante Parker in the Patriots' loss to Miami last week. Parker finished with eight catches for 137 yards.

Gilmore said he doesn't anticipate any lingering effects from that game.

"It don't matter," he said. "You've got to handle your business this week. No matter what happened in the past, it doesn't matter. You can't do nothing about it. You've got to handle what's going to happen this weekend."

Meanwhile, the Redskins hired Ron Rivera as their coach on Wednesday in owner Dan Snyder's latest step to try to turn around the wayward franchise.

Washington announced the move two days after Snyder fired president Bruce Allen following a decade of futility. The former Carolina Panthers

coach quickly emerged as the Redskins' top candidate and inherits a team that went 3-13 this season and hasn't made the playoffs since 2015.

"After several meetings with Coach Rivera, it was clear he is the right person to bring winning football back to Washington, D.C.," Snyder said in a statement. "He is widely respected around the league as a man of great integrity and has proven to be one of the finest coaches in the country."

The 57-year-old of Mexican and Puerto Rican descent is the first minority to be named full-time coach in Redskins franchise history. Rivera is the seventh coach hired by Snyder in his two decades of ownership that have included just five playoff appearances.

Rivera spent the past nine seasons coaching the Panthers, taking them to the Super Bowl in 2015.

"He gets the best out of players," said Redskins cornerback Josh Norman, who played for Rivera with Carolina. "And not just players, but men. He builds men and guys—and also builds character, and sets them up not just for football, but sets (them up) in life. I think that's the first and foremost thing you want to see in anybody, that they actually care about you instead of the game itself."

The Redskins are the first team that fired its coach this season to fill the position. Snyder zeroed in on Rivera, who flew to Washington on Monday to meet with him about the job.

## Cousins, Vikings prep for crossroad playoff game vs Saints

**EAGAN, Minn.** (AP)—Minnesota's investment in Kirk Cousins has yet to yield a postseason victory. The hyper-scrutinized quarterback's first opportunity to get one with the Vikings has arrived this week, on the heels of his career-best season.

Traveling to the Superdome to take on New Orleans in the first round isn't exactly a soft launch.

"I think there's just more juice and excitement," Cousins said. "There always is, but certainly in the playoffs it brings an intensity that makes it kind of fun."

Cousins has little experience with this, having been to the postseason only twice in his previous seven years in the league. He was the backup for Washington as a rookie in 2012, when he replaced an injured Robert Griffin III in the fourth quarter against Seattle in a 24-14 defeat. Cousins went just 3 for 10 for 31 yards in relief. Then in 2015, his first season as the full-time starter,

Cousins went 29 for 46 for 329 yards and a touchdown against Green Bay, taking six sacks in a 35-18 loss.

All the Vikings needed to do to make the playoffs in his debut in 2018 was beat Chicago at home on the final week of the schedule, but they lost 24-10 in what was essentially a postseason game to finish 8-7-1 and miss the cut. This year, with the offense much improved save for that poor performance in defeat on Dec. 23 against the Packers, the Vikings (10-6) had their spot secured with two games to go.

They have to play against the Saints (13-3), however, in a venue as daunting for a visitor as any in the NFL. The last time the Vikings had a postseason game away from home, two years ago, they were blown out 38-7 in the NFC championship game at Philadelphia. Cousins has never taken snaps on the road in the playoffs.

Naturally, the intensity and focus has increased this week, but

by how much should it ramp up?

"On one hand you say, 'Shame on us if we haven't been giving our all every week, every day, all season long.' You can also talk on the other side and say, 'Don't leave anything on the table. Bring everything you've got.' I don't think that means you haven't been doing that. I think it just means there's a sense of urgency in the playoffs," said Cousins, whose touchdown rate (5.9 percent), interception rate (1.4 percent) and average yards per attempt (8.1) in 2019 were the best marks of his career since he became a full-time starter in 2015.

Cousins is only under contract through the 2020 season, with a whopping salary cap hit of \$31 million. The Vikings don't have to do anything with his deal this winter, but if they're not convinced he's worth an extension then they'd be wise to strongly consider using this draft to find a potential replacement. Either way, his performance

at New Orleans on Sunday will go a long way toward shaping his legacy in purple.

Though Cousins is the most scrutinized of the bunch, he's far from the only member of the Vikings facing a crossroad game this weekend. Both general manager Rick Spielman and head coach Mike Zimmer each have only one more year on their contracts, too. Despite all of the strides made and stability established under their leadership in the front office and on the field, the Vikings have won just one postseason game in the past 10 years. That was, fittingly, against the Saints two years ago on the "Minneapolis Miracle" touchdown pass on the final play.

"Every little thing becomes a lot more magnified because of the consequences of winning and losing," Zimmer said, "so everybody has to do a little bit extra in preparation so we don't make those mistakes, we line up and play hard and play fast."



# Thiem confident Big 3 will be toppled at Slams



**SYDNEY**  
(AP)— World number four Dominic Thiem Thurs-

day expressed confidence a new Grand Slam champion will be crowned in 2020 outside the big three of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

While the Austrian, Germany's Alexander Zverev, Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas and others have had success at lesser tournaments, the big guns continue to dominate the majors.

Thiem, in Australia for the inaugural ATP Cup team event, is one of the men tipped to make the breakthrough, with the first Grand Slam of the year, the Australian Open, just weeks away in Melbourne.

He said the younger players were getting close.

"I think we challenged them already a lot. We also beat them especially on Masters 1000 stages and the ATP Finals," said Thiem, who was runner-up to Tsitsipas at the ATP Finals in London in November.

"I think the last stage we have to conquer is the Grand Slam stage, and I really think we'll see a new Grand Slam champion in 2020. I really hope that it's me, but you cannot guarantee anything.



There are also many other very strong guys who can achieve that."

Thiem, 26, won five titles last year at Indian Wells, Barcelona, Kitzbuhel, Beijing and Vienna, but he had a mixed

time at the majors, falling at the first hurdle at Wimbledon and the US Open and in the second round in Australia.

"Maybe it's also not happening and Big 3 are taking all four," he added. "But

we are trying everything to achieve top position, to achieve the biggest titles, Grand Slam titles."

However, he reached the final at Roland Garros, only to be beaten by clay king Nadal.

"I was really happy how my game developed, especially in the last part of the season in 2019," he said. "So I just tried to improve that, to practise and keep improving the things which were going well and then add some new things to my game. I'll try everything to do my best this year."

## ATP Cup adds to crowded tennis dates

Federer won't be playing until the Australian Open, but the summer of tennis Down Under ahead of the first Grand Slam of 2020 will be a little more hectic for everybody else.

Kicking off on Friday with the start of the new 24-team, Davis Cup-style ATP Cup in three cities across Australia, players will have a host of options to them on both the ATP and WTA tours.

Federer and Switzerland aren't involved in the ATP Cup, but Nadal and Djokovic will be representing Spain and Serbia, respectively. No. 3 Federer wants to spend more time with his family before the start of the Australian Open on Jan. 20 in Melbourne.

When the ATP Cup concludes on Jan. 12, Djokovic is scheduled to play at the Adelaide International, a joint ATP-WTA tournament that includes world No. 1 women's player Ash Barty of Australia. Also in that week across the Tasman Sea in New Zealand will be the ATP's Auckland Open.

The Brisbane International,

AP  
Austria's Dominic Thiem plays a return to Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece during their ATP World Finals singles final tennis match at the O2 arena in London, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019.

formerly a joint ATP-WTA event, will be a women's only tournament this year with hometown star Barty among a group of headliners also including Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka, beginning next Monday.

Venus Williams, who had been given a wild card for Brisbane, pulled out with an undisclosed training "setback" on Wednesday. She still hopes to play in Adelaide.

Also on the WTA Tour, the ASB Classic next week has secured a bit of a coup with Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki, who will retire after the Australian Open, scheduled to attend and play singles as well as doubles together in New Zealand. The Hobart International will be played the same week in Australia.

The 38-year-old Federer, who has won 20 Grand Slam singles titles, is the only one of the top seven players in the men's rankings who will not be competing in the 10-day ATP Cup in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney.

"He's made the decision to spend some time with his family and he's obviously a lot more conscious of how much he's playing (as he gets older)," ATP Cup tournament director Tom Lerner told the Australian Associated Press. "For everything Roger has given to the sport we're accepting of that."

Andy Murray will not be appearing for Britain, withdrawing following an injury setback after his return from hip surgery.

Australia will play in Brisbane with Germany, Greece and Canada. In the other Brisbane group it's Serbia, France, South Africa and Chile. In Sydney, Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria and Moldova comprise one group while the other contains Argentina, Austria, Croatia and Poland. Perth hosts the United States, Russia, Italy and Norway and another group comprising Spain, Japan, Uruguay and Georgia.

Kei Nishikori withdrew from the Japan team for the ATP Cup and from the Australian Open.

"I am still not 100% ready to compete at the highest level," Nishikori said. He has not competed since the U.S. Open because of a right elbow injury that required surgery in October.

## Thomas has great start to career and wants more



**KAPALUA, Hawaii** (AP)— Justin Thomas is making his fifth straight start to a

new year at Kapalua, a current streak matched only by Dustin Johnson and a reminder that he has made winning a habit on the PGA Tour.

Thomas, still only 26, already has won 11 times in five years. That includes a major at the PGA Championship, a World Golf Championship at Firestone, two FedEx Cup playoff events and four victories on the Asian swing. He has won a FedEx Cup and reached No. 1 in the world.

And he doesn't feel as though it's enough.

"I'm disappointed I haven't achieved more, to be honest," he said at the Sentry Tournament of Champions, which starts Thursday on the refined Plantation Course. "I shouldn't say disappointed. I'm obviously pleased with my career thus far, but I feel like I could have and should have won a lot more tournaments—and definitely should have contended and won some more majors. So that's just my opinion."

It's more of a typical outlook among the elite in golf. Nothing is ever enough.

It just might be hard for others in the 34-man field to appreciate, especially those who for the first time are soaking up endless views of the Pacific, the surfers at Honolua Bay who can be seen beyond the 11th green, the occasional breach of a humpback whale between Maui and Molokai.

Xander Schauffele won last year and knew for 12 months he was assured of coming back. Dustin Johnson, a two-time winner at Kapalua, has won 11 of the 12 years he has been on the PGA Tour. He appreciates winning, but the scenery is nothing new.

It's different for the 15 players at Kapalua for the first time, the second-most in the history of this winners-only field.

One of them is Lanto Griffin, who won the Houston Open and is still trying to digest all the places winning takes him. It starts at Kapalua. He played consistently enough in the fall that he might land in Mexico City, and that's before he gets to the TPC Sawgrass and Au-

gusta National.

"This is the first week it's really sunk in because the tournaments I played in after Houston, I would have been in regardless," Griffin said. "Walking in, and Xander and Dustin Johnson saying hi and stuff like that, for a guy like me it's a little different than the Korn Ferry Tour and all the other PGA Tour events I've played in. This is kind of the first week it's kind of sunk in that I really did win and my life is a little different now."

Thomas is all about pushing ahead, and his recent form is worth taking notice. It's easy to overlook that Thomas missed nearly two months last year letting a wrist injury heal, including a major at the PGA Championship.

He never worried about missing time, even as hard as it was to miss a major he had won. He thought about Brooks Koepka missing the early part of 2018, including the Masters, and ending the year with victories in the U.S. Open and PGA Championship.

Still, that time off slowed him for the strangest of reasons. He used the time off to perfect his putting stroke in

a game where perfection is never found. He was tinkering with different golf balls and different putters. Thomas went to a different style Scotty Cameron mallet to start the year. He switched to a slightly softer ball for control around the green. He went to a blade-style putter at the U.S. Open.

"The injury really made my putting bad because I had so much time," he said. "It's bizarre. I had all this time to make my setup perfect, make my stroke perfect. I was never doing something consistently long enough to know what the problem was."

He had blunt talk with his short-game teacher, Matt Killen, who told him he had gotten away from everything he had done, and what he had done was good enough. Thomas went back to his previous golf ball and putter a week after the U.S. Open, and since then he's been on a roll.

In 10 tournaments since then, he has finished out of the top 12 just once—a tie for 17th in Japan. He won the BMW Championship in August. He won in South Korea in October. And he's ready to win more.



# Sweet Digs sweeps Itsy Bitsy Spikers

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



Sweet Digs took two sets to beat Itsy Bitsy Spikers, 25-16, 26-24, to clinch the women's division title in the 2019 Agape Christmas Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Iszel Esteves, Kristel Encinares, Alyssa Velasco, Cecile Guevarra, Mia Carreon, Michelle Masga, Tazga Deleon Guerrero, Irish Pagarao, and Julia Espino played for the champion team.

Sweet Digs and Itsy Bitsy Spikers finished the double-round robin preliminaries with similar 7-1 records to make it the four-team playoff round with the latter getting the No. 1 seed after prevailing in the tiebreak.

Itsy Bitsy Spikers, who had Fatima Monterubio, Anna Nunez, Hjeyin Elliot, Katriel Saures, Kepina Moriflor, Madellain Narciso, Maury



Tazga Deleon Guerrero hits the ball against two Itsy Bitsy Spikers blockers during the first set of their title match in the 2019 Agape Christmas Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Multipurpose Gymnasium.

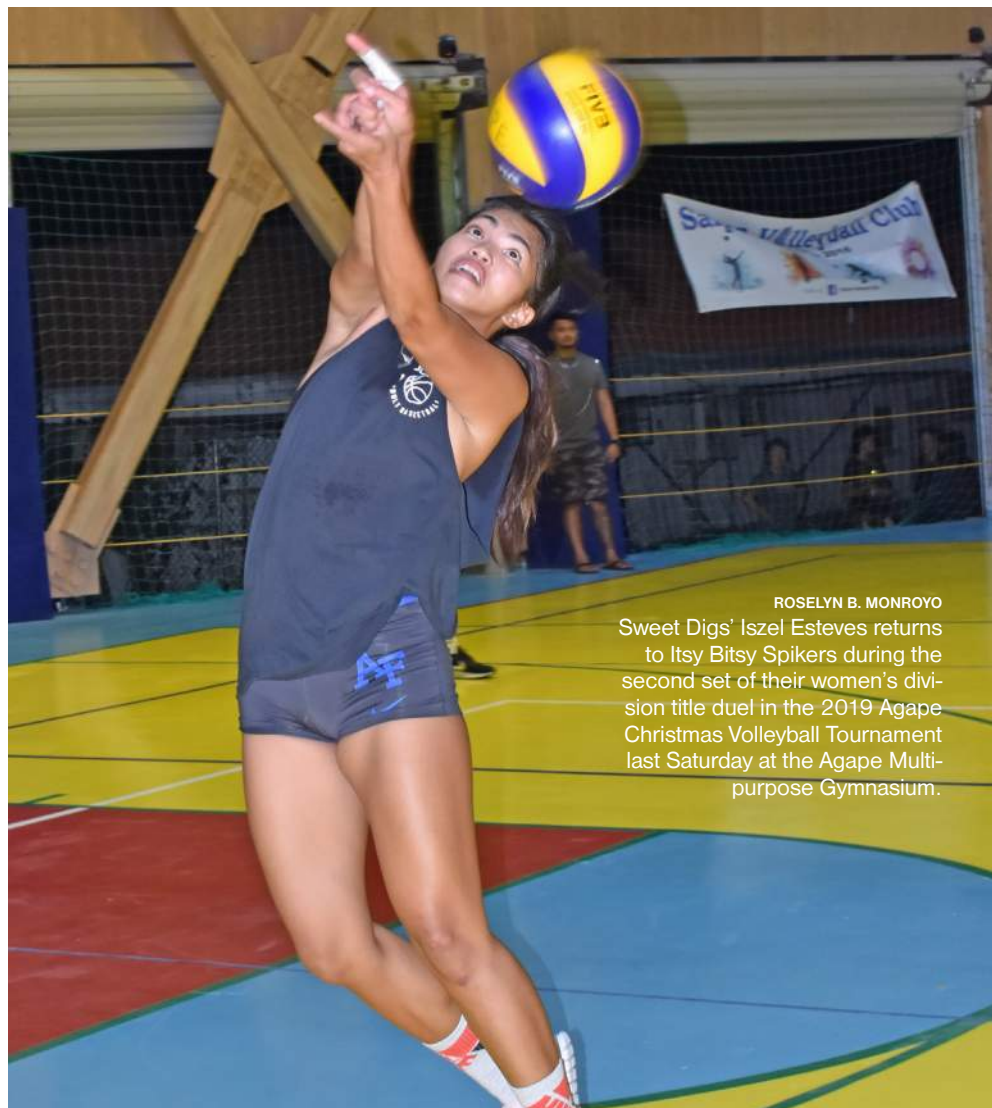
Zon Tybaco, Soleil Lamar, and Sunny Woo as members, were then pitted against Jingle Balls in the semis and posted a 25-9, 25-17 victory to take the first finals berth.

Sweet Digs also needed only two sets to top Sugar and Spice, 25-8, 25-17, and bag the second finals ticket.

In the championship game, Sweet Digs was in control of the first set and withstood Itsy Bitsy Spikers' late rally to move closer to the title.

In the second set, Sweet Digs duelled a much tougher Itsy Bitsy Spikers, who never trailed by more than 4 points and even managed to force the fifth deadlock in the game, 19-all.

Sweet Digs then grabbed the lead back, 21-19, with Velasco blocking Monterubio and Saures' shot hitting the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Sweet Digs' Iszel Esteves returns to Itsy Bitsy Spikers during the second set of their women's division title duel in the 2019 Agape Christmas Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Multipurpose Gymnasium.

net. However, Itsy Bitsy Spikers knotted the count for the seventh time, 22-all, off Monterubio's kill and Tybaco's two placement shots.

A wide spike from Elliot gave the lead back to Sweet Digs, 23-22, and the eventual cham-

pion moved within a point from clinching the title when Pagarao set up Masga for a spike.

However, Sweet Digs, failed to wrap up the finale in the ensuing plays, as it committed back-to-back errors. With the game tied for the nth

time, 24-all, Itsy Bitsy Spikers attempted to steal the lead, but Tybaco's toss kissed the net, putting Sweet digs on top, 25-24. Esteves then finished off Itsy Bitsy Spikers with a spike, dropping the ball to the open back row.

## WHITE

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will be on the NMSA board for two years. Justin Andrew, the outgoing NMSA vice president, will preside over the board meeting.

Meanwhile, NMSA members thanked White for his service and wished him good luck in his next endeavor.

"Thank you for putting the time and effort in serving NMSA and for representing the CNMI in meetings in the Pacific Games and other sports-related events," Northern Mariana Islands Tennis

Association official Jeff Race said. "Thank you for walking us through some developments at NMSA and the Oleai Sports Complex.

With White at the helm of NMSA, the group managed to put up a lottery program that finances the CNMI athletes and officials' participation to off-island competitions and give monetary incentives to athletes. It was also under his leadership that the management and maintenance of the Oleai Sports Complex was handed to NMSA and the Commonwealth won the hosting rights for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

## SHIRLEY'S

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games, downing Shirley's in the opener last Friday, 14-1, and also routing Kanoa last Saturday, 13-3.

Mark Costales and Wataru Kadokura teamed up in TanHoldings' lopsided win over Shirley's after scoring three goals apiece.

Versus Kanoa, Costales also had a hat trick, the same feat Monico Claridades earned to hand TanHoldings a share of the lead in the division with its 2-0-0 mark.

TanHoldings was gunning for a round-robin sweep last night against fellow unbeaten team, MP United.

MPU also prevailed in its first two matches after outclassing Kanoa last Saturday, 6-1, and Shirley's last Monday, 5-3.

Jim Takeru drilled three goals to lift MPU to victory over Kanoa, while Miles Linden's hat trick also powered

MPU past Shirley's.

Shirley's and Kanoa will face in the last preliminary game in the division today and hope to make it to the win column heading into the playoff round.

## Solo leader in boys U15

Kanoa-1 is alone at the top spot in the division following a 13-2 thumping of MP United last Monday.

Brian Lubao and Merrick Toves delivered four goals each to help Kanoa-1 whip MP United.

Kanoa-1's other victory was against sister squad Kanoa-2, as the former logged a 6-3 win in their showdown last Saturday. Lubao had a pair of goals in that triumph, while Markus Toves also contributed two.

In other results, TanHoldings and Kanoa-2 are tied for second with its 1-1-0 win-draw-loss mark. Tanholdings beat MP United last Friday, 3-1, before settling for a draw against Kanoa-2, 6-6, last Saturday.

# Red Sox 'not actively shopping' Betts

**BOSTON**—The Boston Red Sox will answer the phone if teams come calling about Mookie Betts, but they haven't been searching for suitors.

According to reports, the Red Sox are not "actively shopping" Mookie Betts despite their goal to shed payroll ahead of the 2020 campaign. Betts has been

the subject of trade rumors throughout the offseason as he's scheduled to hit the free-agent market after next season and likely will be looking for a Mike Trout-like (roughly \$400 million) contract.

One alternative to shedding payroll by parting ways with Betts would be

to deal left-hander David Price, who has \$96 million remaining on his contract. Price, like Betts, has been mentioned in trade rumors with several teams reportedly interested in acquiring the 34-year-old.

Although there's no questioning Betts' superstar talent, there's a chance the Red

Sox aren't getting as many inquiries about the 2018 American League MVP as one would think. Boston likely will be looking for a massive haul of top prospects in exchange for their homegrown star, and the fact Betts can leave in free agency after one season could prevent teams from taking that risk.

## OL'ACES

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also challenged Rollers 3 last Monday, but results of these matches were unavailable at press time.

Albert Atan top-scored in the Ol'Aces 1's easy victory over CTSI after making 12 points, while Jeremiah Cruz also finished in twin digits with his 10 markers.

CTSI, after falling to the Ol'Aces 1, battled back last Sunday following a 45-38 triumph over the Ol'Aces 3.

Matthew Ong and Tony Kim teamed up in the recovery after scoring 15 and 14 markers, respectively.

Aison Atan had 15 points on a losing effort for the

Ol'Aces 3.

## 670 Sonics 60, Rollers 1 56

In the second game in the boys U18 division last Sunday, the 670 Sonics outclassed Rollers 1.

Kristian Itaas starred in the Sonics' victory, as he delivered 20 points, including 4 of the team's last 6 markers. Jeffrey Seo and Jedial Manalo backed Itaas backed after chipping in 10 markers apiece.

Ervin Villarin tallied 14 points to pace Rollers 1.

## Rollers 2 60, Ol'Aces 2 50

In the third game in the division, Rollers 3 earned a

double-digit winning margin over the Ol'Aces 2.

Koboy Mizutani top-scored for Rollers 2 with his 19 points. He registered 9 of Rollers 2's last 12 points to hand his team the 10-point victory. Rollers 2 was behind at the halftime break, 22-24, but managed to grab the lead and stole the win behind Mizutani's second-half surge. The Rollers 2 forward had 15 points in the final 20 minutes of play.

## WOMEN'S DIVISION Baby Ol'Aces 38, Lady Ol'Aces 34

The Baby Ol'Aces stunned the then unbeaten Lady Ol'Aces in the curtain-raiser in the division last Sunday.

The Baby Ol'Aces banked on a strong start to gain enough cushion and pull off an upset over their favored foes. The Baby Ol'Aces took a 27-17 lead in the first half behind the 9 points of Angel Roligat and hung tough in the final half to take the win.

## CTSI 56, Lady Rollers 41

Jan Travilla suited up for CTSI and powered the team to the 15-point win.

Travilla is based in Guam and returned to Saipan for the holidays. She made her presence felt in the game by making 7 straight points early in the first half to lift CTSI to a 29-17 halftime edge.





**Knicks spoil Carmelo's return to MSG**

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**Pats focus on stopping Titans' big play potential**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## White steps down; NMSA elects new board of directors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association has selected its new board members and Michael White was not on the list, as the long-time NMSA president withdrew his nomination before the election took place last night.

White stepped down after 16 years of leading NMSA. "Thank you for putting



your trust in me in the last 16 years," White said after presiding over the NMSA meeting for the last time yesterday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

White was initially among the 11 individuals nominated for the board, while two more names were listed before votes were cast. In the end, seven were named to the NMSA board, including Justin Andrew, Valerie

Hofschneider, James Lee, Ray Tebuteb, Laurie Peterka, John Hirsh, and Jerry Tan.

The new officials will meet soon to elect its officers who

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Outgoing Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, right, confers with Robin Sapong, center, and Ross Igitol during the election of NMSA board of directors last night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



# Shirley's, Kanoa share lead

## Ol'Aces 1 routs CTSI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The Ol'Aces 1 is still undefeated in the boys U18 division of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after routing CTSI, 51-21, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

urday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces 1 dominated CTSI right from the get-go, taking a 30-13 lead en route to the its third win in as many games. The Ol'Aces 1 was scheduled to play the 670 Sonics yesterday and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces 1's Andrew Omelau, center, drives against CTSI's Logan Mister during their boys U18 division game in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and Kanoa Football Club engaged in a draw, 6-6, to share the lead in the girls U16 division of the 2019-2020 Holiday Futsal Jam.

Kanoa and Shirley's hold similar 1-1-0 win-draw-loss record in the round-robin preliminaries after three playing days at the TSL Sports Complex. Before battling Kanoa to a draw in last Saturday evening's match, Shirley's first topped TanHoldings, 8-2. Kanoa, on the other hand, got its first victory last Friday after nipping Southern United, 8-7.

After winning its opener, Kanoa had to settle for a draw against Shirley's, as the latter fought back in the second half, which started with the former ahead, 3-1.

Sharmaine Francisco made a brace for Kanoa in the first half and the team got an own goal in the first 25 minutes of play, while Katrina Costales delivered the lone goal for Shirley's. Costales went on to hit three of Shirley's five goals in the second half for the draw. Jannah Casarino scored the two other goals for Shirley's in the second half, while



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Football Club's Katrina Costales, left, stops the ball, while Kanoa Football Club's Sharmaine Francisco keeps a close eye on her during their girls U16 division game in the 2019-2020 Holiday Futsal Jam last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa was handed another own goal and drew one each from Paulynn Joyce and Isabel Manabat.

In other results in the girls U16 division of the tournament organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and Saipan Soccer School, Southern United recovered from a sorry loss to Kanoa with a 7-0 demolition of TanHoldings last Monday.

Kaithlyn Chavez led Southern United's easy victory after recording a hat trick, while Julie Hall, Lilian Podziewski, and Fiona Bucalig contributed one apiece. Southern United was handed an own goal in the first half.

Games in the division continued yesterday, while the last preliminary match is set for tonight. The semis will take place tomorrow with the No. 1

team battling the No. 4 finisher in the team standings and the No. 2 and 3 squads squaring off in the other Final Four pairing. Winners of the Saturday matches will collide for the division crown this Sunday at 7:30pm.



**TanHoldings, MPU tied**  
TanHoldings won its first two

**See SHIRLEY'S on Page 31**